Court orders Erap to stand trial in October

STORY ON PAGE A2

P'WEDE NA ANG GIRLS SA BOY SCOUTS!

Boy Scout 'na babae'?

BY B. S. RIVERA

THE BOY Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) is breaking a tradition started by Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the scout movement.

Starting this year,

BOY/ A19

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Petron cuts LPG price** NEWS / A5
- **Slump in June exports lowest since '70s** BUSINESS / B1
- **RP vets dying faster than GIs** NEWS / A4
- **Genetic food labels urged** ACROSS / A14

Woman on top of SSS

'Formula' could spread to other gov't firms

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO, MARTIN P. MARFIL, ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ AND PDI BUREAUS

CONFETTI was thrown, protesters danced and victorious shouts filled the air in Social Security System offices nationwide as Malacañang announced yesterday the replacement of Vitaliano Nañagas II as SSS president and chief executive officer.

Nañagas was replaced by Corazon de la Paz, retired chair of a big accounting and a management consultancy firm.

"It's like Christmas, New Year, Edsa I, Edsa II. This is a big celebration," enthused Abraham Matuco, representative of the Alert and Concerned Employees for a better SSS (Access) in Davao City.

SSS employees in Baguio City said they were studying how their "victorious precedent" in ousting Nañagas would snowball across the government bureaucracy.

Rogelio Atos, legal counsel for the SSS Luzon cluster, said the employees were "gung-ho" about supporting other workers' unions whose fate was hanging in the balance because of state privatization plans.

The Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) said unions at the National Food Authority and Bureau of Internal Revenue were likely to follow the "formula" used by Access in wangling concessions from the government.

The new SSS chief, Corazon de la Paz, is President Macapagal-Arroyo's "hand-picked choice," said Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President. "She is a much-respected executive in the business community. She has vast

WOMAN/ A18

"It happened to Nañagas, it could happen to me."

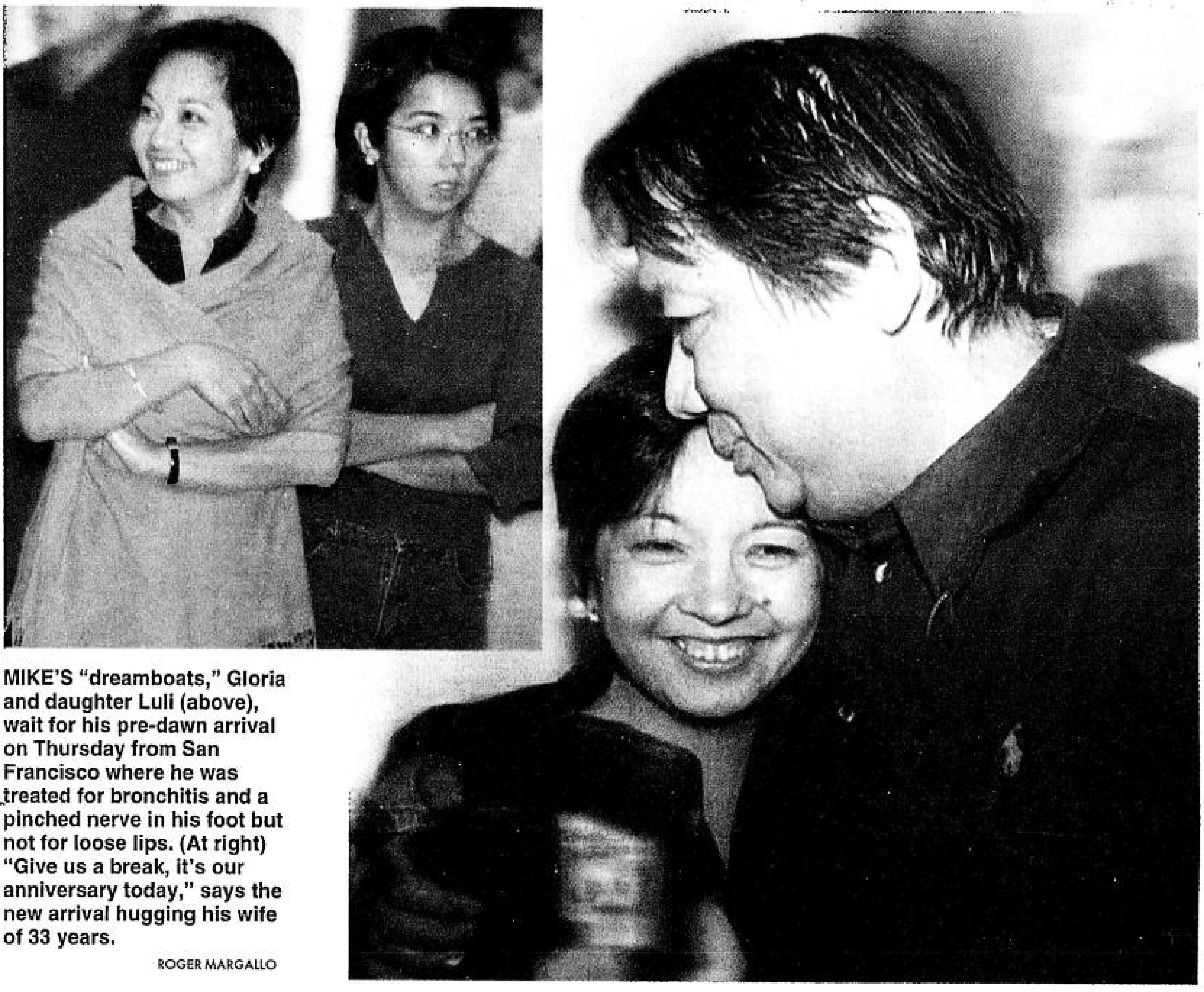
De la Paz refused 7 gov't posts

BY C. S. BATINO

IT was exactly a month from her retirement from audit firm Price WaterhouseCoopers that Corazon de la Paz finally accepted an offer to work full-time with the government as president of the Social Security System.

The administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo alone had previously

DE LA PAZ/ A18



MIKE'S "dreamboats," Gloria and daughter Luli (above), wait for his pre-dawn arrival on Thursday from San Francisco where he was treated for bronchitis and a pinched nerve in his foot but not for loose lips. (At right) "Give us a break, it's our anniversary today," says the new arrival hugging his wife of 33 years.

ROGER MARGALLO

Mike to have own spokesperson

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL AND TJ BURGONIO

WHAT to do with a talkative First Gentleman?

Mike Arroyo, the cause of one of the Macapagal administration's recent headaches, is back, but it appears that the chatty husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo is soon going to have his own spokesperson and that his weekly radio program may be taken off the air.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao announced around noon yesterday that there was a plan to appoint a spokesperson for Arroyo, who dug himself into a scandal pit when he accused an unnamed ex-Palace secretary of receiving a bribe, provoking resigned Palace aide Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo to lob the accusation back.

"The First Gentleman arrived last night and . . . will be designating a spokesperson" soon, Tiglao said, referring to Arroyo's pre-dawn arrival from California, where he was treated for a couple of minor ailments.

"Somebody suggested that he would have to have his own spokesperson or at least an information officer, to help him make statements to the press more quickly," Tiglao added.

In a morning radio interview, asked if her husband's radio program on dzRH, where he had made the controversial remarks, will continue airing, the President said: "I don't know. Perhaps that still has to be discussed."

Asked to comment on reports that Ms Macapagal was overheard telling her husband not to grant more radio interviews, Tiglao declined to comment.

Arroyo, who arrived in Manila at 3:05 a.m. on a Philippine Airlines flight from San Francisco, told reporters: "Now I'm here to face the charges that I have received money from the telecom clearing house. My conscience is clear. I did not receive any money. I have nothing to hide.

"I will help the Ombudsman and any other investigating committee so that our countrymen will know the whole truth. I want them to investigate me. I want this to end so that I can continue my charity works for the poor whom I love," Arroyo said in Filipino, reading from a prepared statement.

After reading his statement, Arroyo begged off from answering reporters' questions, saying,

MIKE/ A19

Malacañang yielded to mob rule, says solon

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

MALACAÑANG yielded to "mob rule" when it removed Vitaliano Nañagas II as president of the Social Security System, Sen. John Osmeña said yesterday.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar warned that to avoid Nañagas' fate, government officials would now think twice before instituting "radical reforms" in their offices—"and radical changes are precisely what we need now to move our economy forward."

Villar said he would file next week a resolution in the Senate

MALACAÑANG/ A18

DEPRESSED but consoled by the presence of his wife Sen. Loi Ejercito, deposed President Estrada says during a press conference after his appearance on Thursday at the Sandiganbayan. Detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center for nearly a hundred days, Estrada says he watches a lot of TV but is losing his sight in the left eye. *(Story on Page A2.)*

VAL HANDUMON

2,300 Pinoys leaving daily for jobs abroad

TENS of thousands of jobless Filipinos are moving abroad amid an economic slowdown, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday.

"At this time of scarce employment opportunities, about 2,300 people are leaving every day for overseas jobs," Sto. Tomas told a local radio.

"On the average, between 70,000 and 75,000 are leaving every month," she added.

Millions of Filipinos have gone abroad to seek work since the late 1970s. But Sto. Tomas said the pace of deployment had again picked up as Philippine economic growth slowed down.

The economy grew by a slower 2.5 percent in the three months to March, leading to an unemployment rate of 13.3 percent and an underemployment rate of 17.5 percent by official count.

The labor department estimates about 50,000 Filipinos have lost their jobs since the start of the year.

Sto. Tomas said there was growing demand for Filipino health workers, particularly nurses in Norway and physical therapists in the United States and Europe.

Under more relaxed immigration rules in these areas, "they would be able to bring over their families after two years," she added.

Sto. Tomas said most of the local companies that laid off workers were still operating but

2,300 PINOYS/ A6

PCGG to verify Marcos gold story in Seoul paper

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

FACE to face with a fantastic new tale of the Marcos hidden gold, officials of the Presidential Commission on Good Government yesterday didn't burst out laughing for a change.

Instead, they said they would ask for help from both South Korean and Swiss officials to verify a report in a Seoul newspaper that the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos hid 940 tons of gold bars in a Swiss bank in 1970, using the name of then North Korean leader Kim Il-sung.

Quoting an unnamed former Marcos aide, Seoul's Munhwa Ilbo newspaper reported this week that Marcos deposited the tons of gold,

PCGG/ A19

BI confirms 2 Lacson boys fled RP

BY CATHY YAMSUAN, TJ BURGONIO AND ALCUIN PAPA

IMMIGRATION authorities will have to explain to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez how Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao III of the disbanded Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) were able to leave the country three weeks ago despite a hold-departure order he issued against them in May.

Perez yesterday said initial investigation showed that the two police officers left for Hong Kong using fake passports.

Once in Hong Kong, Aquino and Mancao could have used their genuine travel papers to proceed to their real destination, most likely the United States, Perez said in a press conference.

But Aquino and Mancao said they were still in the country.

"I'm still around. *Pakalat-kalat nga lang ako,*" Aquino told Channel 7's "Saksi" news program last night. Channel 7, however, could not determine whether the two police officers were still in the country as it was able to contact Aquino and Mancao through their cell phones, which may have international roaming capability.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo confirmed reports that Aquino and Mancao had slipped out of the country.

Citing informants, Domingo said that Mancao

BI/ A6

NABIGO NANAMAN!

Erap trial starts October

Court deals prosecution new setback in early skirmishes

By Donna S. Cueto

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada was ordered to appear for trial on perjury charges in late October, but the prosecution suffered a setback yesterday in early courtroom skirmishing.

Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, accused of bias in favor of Estrada, rejected a government plea that he withdraw from the case.

He ordered Estrada to appear in court for the start of the presentation of the government's evidence on Oct. 29-31.

Defense lawyers told the court that Estrada, who was ousted in a popular uprising in January, would be their only witness.

Prosecutors had argued that Garchitorena was biased against them and had shown signs of pre-judging the case when he said in a hearing in June that the prosecutors did not have enough evidence.

Based on this statement, "there is already a pre-judgment. This case will not go anywhere except (toward) an acquittal," private prosecutor Arno Sanidad said.

Prosecutors charged that Estrada had only declared some P35 million in cash and assets in a statement he filed in 1999 required by law of high government officials.

The prosecution, however, said it has evidence of hidden bank accounts and shares in large corporations proving that Estrada's wealth was much larger.

Estrada also faces the more serious charge of plunder, punishable by death.

One of Estrada's lawyers, former justice secretary Serafin Cuevas, was disqualified from registering as part of the defense team.

Garchitorena cited rules barring retired justice officials who are receiving government pensions from handling criminal cases of public officials.

The pre-trial hearing yesterday was intended to mark evidence to be used in the perjury trial and to agree on stipulations such as the common definition of terms.

The marking had to be set to another date, however, after the prosecution and defense failed to agree on accepting evidence allegedly showing Estrada's shares in five corporations.

The court also thrashed the government prosecutors for coming "unprepared" and for failing to subpoena bank documents which would have provided evidence of five new bank accounts worth P73.8 million allegedly belonging to the ousted leader.

The revelation of the five new bank accounts, aside from the controversial "Jose Velarde" account worth P1.17 billion, came at the end of the three-hour hearing that started at 8:30 a.m.

The five accounts, supposedly under Estrada's own name, include three at the Security Bank worth P11.3 million, one at Asia United Bank worth P571,000, and another at Keppel Bank worth P62 million.

The hearing was attended by the accused, clad in a Barong Tagalog, accompanied by his wife, Sen. Loi Estrada, and sons Jude Estrada and JV Ejercito.

The revelation about the five bank accounts could have saved the prosecution from the string of setbacks it suffered yesterday before the court's First Division.

But the prosecutors forgot to subpoena the documents on the alleged bank accounts.

"When you come to this court to say something, you must know what you are talking about, and you must be able to defend it," Garchitorena said.

The court also caught special prosecutor Leonardo Tamayo not having read the government's own pleadings and the transcript of court records.

"Why did you not issue a subpoena when you have the authority to issue it?" Garchitorena asked the prosecutors.

"It is better for the court to issue the subpoena," answered special prosecution officer III Raymundo Julio Olaguer

"Excuse me!" Garchitorena thundered. "You are prosecuting the case (and not the court). You were already able to peep at the records of the bank."

"This is the most important case in your life and you don't issue subpoenas. And you complain about the court's attitude," he said in the open court.

The prosecutors, particularly Tamayo and deputy special prosecutor Roberto Kallos, complained of the court's alleged bias for Estrada and its attitude toward the prosecution. They then sought to inhibit the court, saying the government would not win the case in the First Division.

But the court blamed it all on the prosecution for making numerous amendments to the information.

"We did not prepare the information, you did. We did not amend the information, you did," Garchitorena said. *With an AFP report*

Erap depressed, but he says Loi's his consolation

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada admitted to being "quite depressed" these days at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he has been detained for almost 100 days.

At a news conference after his appearance before the Sandiganbayan yesterday, Estrada said he has been watching a lot of television, although he is slowly losing the sight in his left eye.

He is also saddened by what he sees on the news.

With a lot of time on his hands, he said being confined at the VMMC was "very depressing."

"*Malungkot na malungkot* (Very sad)," he added.

But there is an upside, he pointed out.

The disgraced leader, known to have kept various mistresses when he was free, now says he has become quite close to his wife, Sen. Loi Estrada.

"*Siyempre, lalong nagkakaisa kami* (Of course, we are more united)," he said.

That is my consolation, he added.

Estrada said he has more friends now, and his family was wholly behind him.

He said he also feels that more people are praying for him.

He said he was particularly glad that former justice secretary Serafin Cuevas, whom he fired allegedly for failing to give special favors to his friends, was now helping him.

How does he while away the time?

Estrada said he has become a prayerful man like his wife.

"Well, I watch TV, and pray a lot. I never miss Mass at least twice a week," he said.

"My only consolation is that I learned so many people are praying for me and I know that God is with me," Estrada said.

"And I'm sorry to say that my only sin is (against) civil society," he said, referring to the groups, mostly from the middle class and the elite, which pushed for his ouster in January.

For now, though, Estrada said he is praying he will be acquitted of the four criminal charges he is facing: plunder, perjury, illegal use of an alias and graft.

He said he "is willing to suffer" while in detention. "As long as I am cleared of all these charges against me," he said.

He said his arrest has denied him access to his eye doctor in the United States. His left eye was earlier diagnosed with glaucoma.

"I think my left eye is long overdue for an operation," he said, but made it clear he has not sought court permission for a medical furlough.

He said he made the decision to delay seeking medical attention because "I want to face all the fabricated charges against me." *Donna S. Cueto, with an AFP report*

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Gloria hits back at US 'impatience' over Abu

By Martin P. Marfil

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday appeared irked by reports that the US government has expressed "impatience" over the government's handling of the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The bandits had been holding two American hostages, Martin and Gracia Burnham, for more than two months.

A third American hostage, Guillermo Sobero, was said to have been beheaded. Nineteen Filipinos are also being held in Basilan.

Yesterday, Ms Macapagal was asked to comment on US Secretary of State Colin Powell's expression of concern over the crisis, which he had described as a prolonged one.

"How long was Patty Hearst held before she was rescued?" Ms Macapagal retorted.

Hearst was the heiress of a wealthy American family who was abducted by the Symbionese Liberation Army in 1974. She later joined her captors and was captured about 12 month later.

Told that the US was becoming "impatient," Ms Macapagal said she would want to hear that from the source himself.

"I would like to hear those interpretations from those they talked with. Sometimes, it comes out different if it is not within the context," she said.

Powell was said to have made the remark during a regional conference in Vietnam early this week.

His remarks were addressed to Vice President and foreign secretary Teofisto Guingona, who attended the conference.

The kidnappings by the bandit group has become a major embarrassment to the government, which has failed to capture the kidnappers despite deploying thousands of troops and policemen in the pursuit. *With AFP report*

RP maid to be out of UAE jail soon

DUBAI—A Filipino maid jailed in the United Arab Emirates for killing her Emirati employer to fend off a drunken rape bid could be released next month, the Philippine ambassador to the UAE said yesterday.

Amable Aguiluz told Gulf News that a campaign to raise $40,000 blood money, which is payable to the victim's family and would allow Mary Jane Ramos to walk free, was close to reaching its target.

"It is just a matter of a few weeks before the 'diya' morey will be deposited at the Ras al-Khaimah court," Aguiluz said.

"A substantial amount has also been contributed by a fund-raising campaign launched in Manila, which was spearheaded by Mike Arroyo, the husband of Philippines President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," he said.

In January 2001, an Islamic court acquitted Ramos, aged 20 at the time, of the incident, which occurred on her first day of work. It said she had acted in self-defense against a rape attempt by stabbing her drunken Emirati employer with a kitchen knife.

A source close to the case said the employer was "a very high-ranking figure related" to the ruling family of Ras al-Khaimah, a member of the oil-rich United Arab Emirates (UAE).

But on May 30, an appeals court ruled that Ramos should serve two years in jail and be deported after paying the victim's family the "diya," or blood money, as laid down by Islamic law. *AFP*

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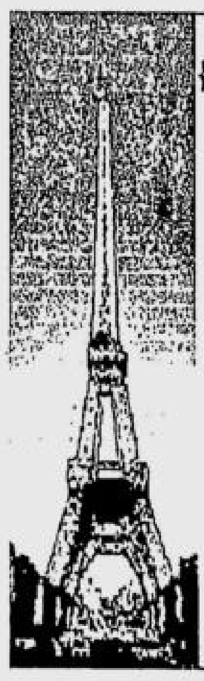

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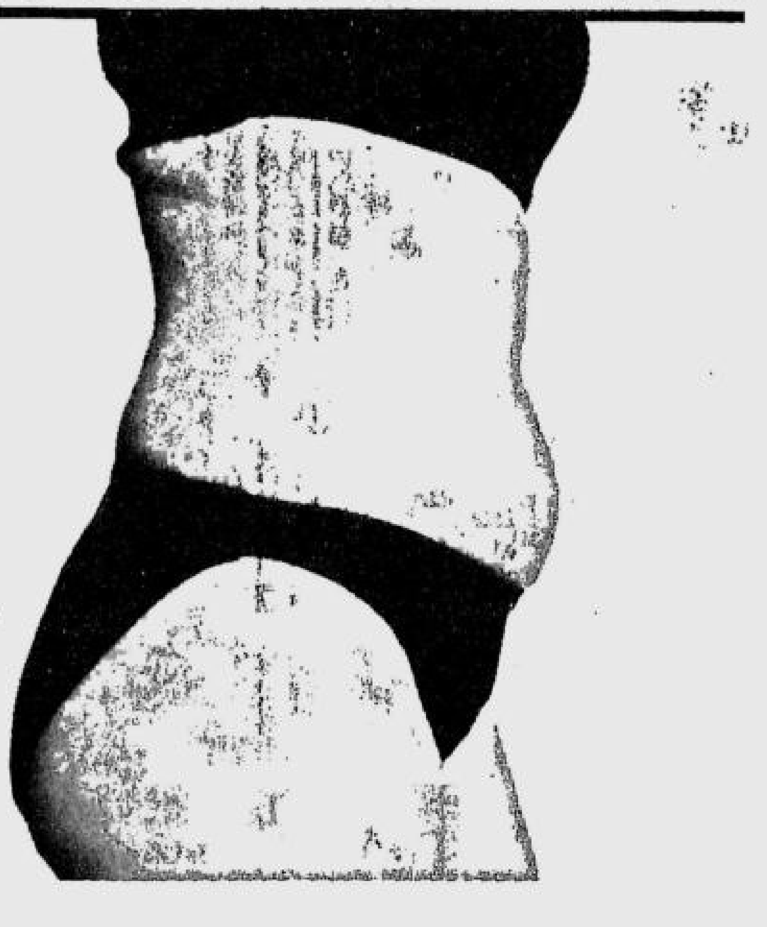

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Joker says he misses action at the House

BY ARMAND NOCUM

NEOPHYTE Sen. Joker Arroyo misses the free-for-alls at the House of Representatives.

Barely two weeks in the Senate, Arroyo says he finds the Upper Chamber "more quiet" than the House.

Asked what he missed most about the House, he replied: "The vibrancy. You know in the House there's more vibrancy because of the numbers." There are over 200 congressmen compared to 24 senators.

Pressed on what made the House different from the Senate, he replied: "There's more senior citizens here."

Arroyo is in his 70's, but he has been described as agile and quick-witted—which make him a formidable foe in debates.

Did he have plans to run for President? "No, the Senate is the home for senior citizens," he replied.

As to the difference in debating styles, Arroyo described the ones in the Senate as one of the "attack and retreat" type.

"In the House, when you start a debate you keep going, you don't step back," he said. House debates are known to last through the night with filibusterers like Rep. Didagen Dilangalen ruling the mike.

Since the 12th Congress opened July 23, administration and opposition senators have clashed on the Senate presidency race, the State of the Nation Address delivered by President Macapagal-Arroyo and committee chairmanships.

Most of the debates, however, ended when the issues became too fiery and cooler heads opted to continue discussions the next day when tempers had cooled.

So far, the debates have pitted Senate President Franklin Drilon, Renato Cayetano, Ralph Recto and Arroyo of the administration against Angara, minority floor leader Aquilino Pimentel, Blas Ople, Rodolfo Biazon and Vicente Sotto.

Apparently not satisfied with the debates in the Senate, Arroyo also trained his sights on Malaya publisher Jake Macasaet.

Macasaet's paper had bannered a story that a certain Ito Los Baños, who is allegedly involved in the telecommunications scandal involving First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, had been Senator Arroyo's "campaign manager" in the last elections.

The report went on to say that Senator Arroyo's ties to Los Baños was the reason he was not keen on heading the Senate blue ribbon committee which would investigate the First Gentleman.

"It's fecal journalism, I will not dignify it (with a reply)," Arroyo said.

Arroyo remains the leading contender for the blue ribbon committee chairmanship. Reports are he is in the process of clarifying certain Senate rules before he agrees to head the panel.

ALAMIN AT UNAWAIN!

Bumaba na ng 30 sentimos per kilowatt-hour ang kuryente mula sa Napocor.

SIMULA PA LAMANG ITO

Ang mandated rate reduction o pagbaba ng 30 sentimos per kilowatt-hour sa singil sa kuryente para sa mga residential consumers ay isang probisyon ng bagong batas na tinatawag na Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EIRA).

Ang diskwentong ito ay para lamang sa kuryenteng ipinagbibili ng Napocor. Ang eksaktong adjustment ay proportionate sa dami ng kuryente na binibili ng isang electric cooperative o power distributor mula sa Napocor.

Millions of Filipino households will benefit from this because Napocor supplies roughly 87 percent of the country's total electricity demand. Residential consumers account for 33 percent of the total consumption.

Kung ikaw ay kumukunsumo ng 200 kilowatt-hours kada buwan para sa ilaw, ref, TV at electric fan, mga P60 din ang matitipid mo buwan-buwan o mahigit P700 sa isang taon.

The rate reduction took effect immediately upon enactment of EIRA and will be reflected in your electricity bills this August at the earliest.

Simula pa lamang ito sa maraming benepisyo ng EIRA.

ANO BA TALAGA ANG EIRA?

Ang EIRA ay reporma sa industriyang kuryente.

Like the reforms introduced in the telecommunications industry, the EIRA will dismantle Napocor's monopoly by privatizing it into several generating companies which will then be sold to private investors.

Dahil dito hindi na mangungutang ang gobyerno para suportahan ang naluluging Napocor.

MAGKAKAROON NG KOMPETISYON

Dahil magiging pribado na ang Napocor, magkakaroon ng kompetisyon sa generation sector ng kuryente.

Hindi lang yan. Pati ang supply side ng industriya ay magkakaroon din ng kompetisyon.

Pag may kompetisyon, malaki ang posibilidad na bumaba ang presyo ng kuryente, gaya ng nangyayari sa industriyang telepono na ngayon ay nagkakaroon ng price war o bakbakan sa diskwento sa IDD at NDD rates.

Ito ang naging karanasan ng mga bansang nag-reporma ng kanilang industriyang kuryente. Gaya ng Australia (36% rate reduction), New Zealand (14%), Argentina (44%) at United Kingdom (25%).

Pagbaba ng presyo ng kuryente, bababa din ang halaga ng mga pangunahing bilihin.

REFORM TAKES TIME

Ang EIRA ay hindi instant relief.

Mahabang proseso ang reporma sa kuryente dahil babaguhin ang structure ng mismong industriya. Umabot ng halos pitong taon ang pagre-reporma sa telecommunications industry ngunit ngayon pa lamang natin nararamdaman ang mga benepisyo nito. Sa pagpapatupad ng mga repormang nakapaloob sa EIRA, mararamdaman natin ang iba't ibang benepisyo nito pag nagkakaroon na ng tunay na kompetisyon.

Reform takes time.

To prepare for the implementation of the EIRA, the Department of Energy will hold a series of public consultations on its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

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RP vets dying faster than GIs

LOS ANGELES—A survey of Filipino soldiers who fought in World War II showed that they are dying at a much faster rate than their American counterparts.

Advocates for Filipino veterans in the United States released a report Tuesday describing the economic plight and health problems facing the group. They hope the veterans will eventually receive military benefits from the US government.

Many of the estimated 200,000 Filipino soldiers believed the US government would grant them military benefits for their World War II service. But a 1946 act, at the time the Philippines gained independence from the United States, prevented all but a handful of Filipinos from receiving those benefits.

The survey, conducted by Filipino-American Service Group, polled 400 Filipino veterans who live in California. The study found that half of those surveyed report chronic blood pressure and hypertension. It said 13 percent of Filipino veterans will die in the next year, compared with 8 percent of US veterans.

The study did not offer a comparison with the health of US veterans, and the Department of Veterans Affairs could not immediately provide comparative figures.

The study revealed that the average monthly income among Filipino veterans in California is $698.

"The average income is horrifying and shocking," said Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg, a supporter of the veterans. "You can rent a nice garage for that amount in LA."

The study was commissioned by the California Endowment and the California Wellness Foundation, said Susan Maquindang, executive director of the Filipino-American Service Group.

To be eligible for US military benefits, the veterans would have to prove they either were wounded in battle or served with the Old Philippine Scouts, a unit created before the war started.

According to Department of Veterans Affairs documents, only 950 of the 14,000 Filipino World War II veterans still alive receive benefits. Less than 10 percent of World War II veterans living in the Philippines receive benefits. AP

Generalao, 43

ROSE ABAO Generalao, resident physician at the Bukidnon Provincial Hospital, died yesterday at the Maria Reyna Hospital in Cagayan de Oro City from complications of Takayasus Arteritis, a rare heart and cardio-vascular disease. She would have been 43 in December.

She is survived by her mother, Lilia Gellor Abao of the Bukidnon State College; husband, Pedro Generalao Jr., a surgeon also at the Bukidnon Provincial Hospital; and two young children, 12-year-old Hazel Mae, and six-year-old Mark Christian.

The body lies at the family residence at Caul St., Malaybalay City.

Burial will be on Sunday after the 9 a.m. Mass at the Shepherds' Meadows Memorial in Malaybalay City.

Fabros, 51

AUGUSTO Cruz Fabros of Las Piñas died on Monday at the age of 51.

He is survived by his wife Henrietta Austero-Fabros, children Mark Henry and Herlyn Grace, brothers, sisters, in-laws, nephews and nieces. His remains lie at the Holy Trinity Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque City. Interment will be held on Sunday, Aug. 5

Old Palace hand named press undersecretary

CARMEN "Ching" Suva, who has served under six presidents and more than a dozen press secretaries, has been appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as press undersecretary for media relations, a new position under the Office of the Press Secretary.

Suva, who is currently an assistant press secretary, has served the Malacañang Press Office since the administration of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, the President's father.

Suva, whose appointment is co-terminus with Ms Macapagal, was appointed assistant press secretary by former President Fidel Ramos in March 1998 after serving for four years as Director III of the News and Information Bureau (NIB) and special assistant to then Press Secretary Hector Villanueva.

The new press undersecretary, who rose from the ranks, has already served the press office for an uninterrupted 39 years, first as secretary to Press Secretaries Leo Parungao, Virgilio Reyes and Raul Gonzales, from 1962 to 1966.

She served as private secretary of the late Press Secretary Jose Aspiras (1966-1969); executive secretary of former Information Minister Francisco Tatad (1969-1979); and head executive assistant for media relations under former Information Minister Gregorio Cendaña (1980-1986).

From 1987 to 1993, she was senior executive assistant at the NIB, administrative and media coordinator of the Presidential News Desk and special assistant to former Press Secretary Jesus Sison, from 1993 to 1995.

Her almost four decades of government service has not only endeared Suva, fondly called "Tita Ching," to newsmen covering Malacañang, but has also earned her several service awards and citations.

PRESIDENT Macapagal waves as she boards the commuter train through Laguna.
JOAN BONDOC

Gloria inaugurates train to Los Baños

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna--President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday inaugurated the Commuter Express Train in the province, assuring Laguna residents the railway system would bring progress and opportunities to the poor.

In her first stopover at Mayondon at about 10 a.m., the President signed the large replica of the train ticket for the Presidential Inaugural Ride on the Commuter Express Train.

Housing Secretary Mike Defensor then briefed those present on the Calauan housing project in Barangay Dayap, Calauan.

The President also received the memoranda of agreement on the mass housing projects between the National Housing Authority and the towns of Calauan, Victoria, Pila, Bay and Los Baños.

Hundreds of residents and students warmly welcomed the President. She was overheard encouraging the students who were trying to get closer to her to do well in their studies and be successful.

The residents who expected to hear the President speak were saddened, however, when she left the PNR station after a few minutes.

At the International Rice Research Institute here, the President was briefed by IRRI scientists on sophisticated methods of increasing rice production, including varieties, which are not only palatable but also rich in nutrients like Vitamin A, iron and others.

IRRI director general Ronald Cantrell and other officials welcomed the President and her party. He led them to the field briefing on the IRRI rice varieties.

"High iron variety rice would solve various health problems of people throughout the world," Duncan Macintosh said.

The IRRI staff reminded President Macapagal it was her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, who inaugurated the complex in 1962. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Petron leads cut in cooking gas price

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

PETRON yesterday cut the price of liquefied petroleum gas by 55 centavos per kilogram effective midnight last night and Pilipinas Shell and Caltex are expected to follow suit.

The price cut comes on the heels of the decision of the Big Three to decrease the prices of gasoline by 20 centavos per liter and of diesel and kerosene by 15 centavos per liter on July 19.

Militant groups had accused the oil firms of helping boost President Macapagal-Arroyo's image before her state-of-the-nation address with the gasoline price cuts.

In a statement, Petron said the price adjustment translates to a decrease of P6.05 per 11-kilogram cylinder of the cooking gas.

Petron said this places the retail price to between P249 and P259 per 11-kg cylinder. Previously it ranged between P255 and P265.

Petron, the country's biggest oil refiner, said the price adjustment followed a drop in LPG contract prices from around $250 per metric ton in July to around $230 per metric ton this month.

"We are just being consistent with what deregulation is all about. We are moving with the market as we did two weeks ago when we rolled back the prices of the other fuels," said Virginia Ruivivar, Petron corporate communications manager.

Ruivivar explained that LPG contract prices affects only part of Petron's LPG volumes since it directly imports only half of this.

The other half of Petron's LPG production is processed in its refinery in Bataan.

Pilipinas Shell vice president Reynaldo Gamboa said they would "competitively respond to price movements in the market."

Also, Caltex corporate communications manager Marian Catedral said: "We are seriously considering a rollback. We are monitoring the market situation right now."

The oil companies last adjusted LPG prices with a roll back of P1.50 per kg, or P16.50 per 11-kg cylinder, on April 4.

Before that, they increased the price of LPG by the same amount on Feb. 14.

The Big Three posted a financial turnaround in the first six months of the year after reporting losses in the same period last year.

Petron said it earned P513 million for the first half of 2001 compared to a P628-million loss in the same period last year.

Puwersa pushes fight for 12th spot

BY GERALD LACUARTA

IT'S AIN'T over till it's really over.

With this rephrased adage in mind, lawyers for the Puwersa ng Masa yesterday asked the Commission on Elections to recall its resolution proclaiming Sen. Ralph Recto as the 12th-place winner in the May 14 senatorial elections.

Rufus Rodriguez, counsel for Sen. Loi Ejercito, said Resolution 01-006 of the Comelec, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBOC), was null and void as it had not been approved by a majority of the commissioners.

"Under the Constitution and the Comelec rules of procedure, a majority vote of all the members of the commission is necessary and mandatory for the promulgation of a decision," Rodriguez said in his motion for recall.

Rodriguez noted that only Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioners Rex Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr. voted for the resolution.

Two commissioners, Luz Tancangco and Rufino Javier, dissented, while two other commissioners, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain, were absent.

"Since there are seven members of the commission, four votes are necessary to promulgate a decision," Rodriguez said.

The NBOC resolution dismissed all four petitions filed by Ejercito questioning 150,000 votes for Recto in 20 towns in Mindanao. Also dismissed was a petition asking the NBOC to implement an earlier resolution ordering the deduction of 30,000 votes from Recto's tally in Zamboanga del Norte.

"It is only by recalling Resolution 01-006 could the Comelec uphold its constitutional mandate to conduct fair and honest elections," Rodriguez said.

As of the final canvass report, the 30,000 Recto votes, which were believed to have been padded to his total, were still in the provincial tally.

Figures released by the Comelec and attached to the resolution showed Recto winning by more than 45,000 votes over 13th placer Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

The 12th place winner shall serve a full six-year term while the 13th placer will serve for only three years to complete the unfinished term of former senator now Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

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BI confirms 2 Lacson boys fled RP

(From page A1)

and Aquino took a Cathay Pacific flight out of the country for Hong Kong through the Mactan International Airport.

"They used fake passports when they departed for Hong Kong. They, however, presented their genuine passports with fabricated immigration departure stamps at the airport in Hong Kong. From there, they took a flight to the US," she said.

Perez said he issued a hold-departure order against Aquino and Mancao in connection with the May 1 siege of Malacañang by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Aquino and Mancao, protégés of Sen. Panfilo Lacson when he still headed the Philippine National Police (PNP), were among those charged with rebellion.

Aquino and Mancao joined Lacson in a petition questioning the legality of Perez's order for their warrantless arrest days after the May 1 assault.

AWOL

The two have been considered AWOL (absent without official leave) since July 16, according to Director Thompson Lantion of the PNP Directorate for Police Community Relations.

Mancao was last assigned to the PNP Region 8 Command, which covers Cebu City, while Aquino, the former chief operations of the PAOCTF, was assigned to the Headquarters Support Service Group, the holding center for PNP officers who are on "floating status."

The two are already facing summary dismissal proceedings for grave misconduct in relation to charges like drug trafficking, murder and kidnapping made by Mary Ong alias Rosebud, a former Hong Kong anti-narcotics agent who is also a former PAOCTF informant.

Aquino and Mancao are linked to other crimes.

The two police officers are being investigated in connection with the abduction and death of public relations practitioners Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

Aquino and Mancao even participated in the summary execution of casino employee Edgar Bentain, said alleged former PAOCTF civilian agent Angelo Mawanay.

Flight is sign of guilt

As far as the PNP is concerned, Mancao and Aquino's flight is an indication of their guilt, according to Lantion.

Perez expressed doubt that the US government would grant Aquino and Mancao political asylum.

"Political asylum is based on politics. It cannot be used by those who are facing charges because of atrocities that they have committed," Perez said.

The justice secretary has ordered Domingo to submit a full report on the police officers' escape.

Domingo said the Bureau of Immigration was closely coordinating with the US Immigration and Naturalization Service for the arrest and deportation of Aquino and Mancao.

She said only the DOJ could ask US authorities to extradite the two.

Domingo has ordered immigration officers to determine whether immigration agents at the Mactan International Airport facilitated the departure of Mancao and Aquino.

She is sending a team of investigators to Hong Kong to find out which Cathay Pacific flight the police officers took and the date of their departure.

"From these pieces of information, we'll find out who were the immigration officers on duty that time," she said.

Domingo said she would fire any immigration personnel found to have facilitated the departure of the police officers.

Face the music

The PNP called on Aquino and Mancao to return to the country so that they could clear their names.

"They should come forward, present themselves and clear their names. They can ventilate their concerns and grievances at the summary dismissal proceedings," Lantion said.

He lamented that the two officers were setting a bad example for other police officers.

"These are indications of breach of discipline," Lantion said.

He said the summary dismissal proceedings against Aquino and Mancao would continue despite their flight.

Should they be dismissed, Aquino and Mancao stand to lose the benefits due active and retiring PNP officers.

AQUINO

MANCAO

IMMIGRATION Commissioner Andrea Domingo is coordinating with US immigration authorities to arrest and deport Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao.

ROGER MARGALLO

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2,300 Pinoys leaving daily for jobs abroad

(From page A1)

scaled back operations.

On Saturday, President Macapagal-Arroyo told millions of Filipinos working abroad that the country was not ready to absorb them and advised them to remain at their jobs overseas.

The President admitted that local job opportunities were few amid an economic slowdown and rising criminality.

Ms Macapagal said overseas Filipino workers would remain a crucial part of the economy "for many more years to come."

There are about 5 million Filipinos working overseas as seamen, laborers, housemaids, nannies, entertainers, construction workers, technicians and office employees.

The money they remit to their families and relatives at home is a major source of badly needed foreign exchange for the country.

Still, Ms Macapagal said her administration was exerting efforts to attract foreign investors and generate local jobs.

AFP

Lecture on 'santos'

A LECTURE on *santos*, religious carvings from the Spanish period, will be given by Esperanza Gatbonton, on Aug. 11, at 10 a.m. at the Tambunting-Villongco Hall of the National Museum.

Santos, as objectives of religious devotion, served as a link bridging pre-hispanic Filipino beliefs and the new religion brought by the Spanish conquest.

Gatbonton is a consultant for heritage sites at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The lecture is part of the series sponsored jointly by the National Museum and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines.

Tesda agri-aqua exhibits

THE 2ND Agri-Fishery and Industrial Technology Fair was held on July 20-22 at the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) Central Office in Taguig.

Tesda Director General Lucita S. Lazo opened the three-day fair, which was line with President Macapagal Arroyo's program of job generation. The goal is for the government to spur the growth and development of small- and medium-scale enterprises, both in the urban areas and the countryside.

Lazo commended the participation of the non-government organization Agri-Aqua Network International, headed by veteran agri-journalist Zac Sarian, who co-managed the trade fair. AANI organized the successful Agri-Aqua weekend market held weekly at the Tesda Central Office in Taguig.

This year's theme was "Appropriate Agri-Aqua Technologies for Greater Productivity".

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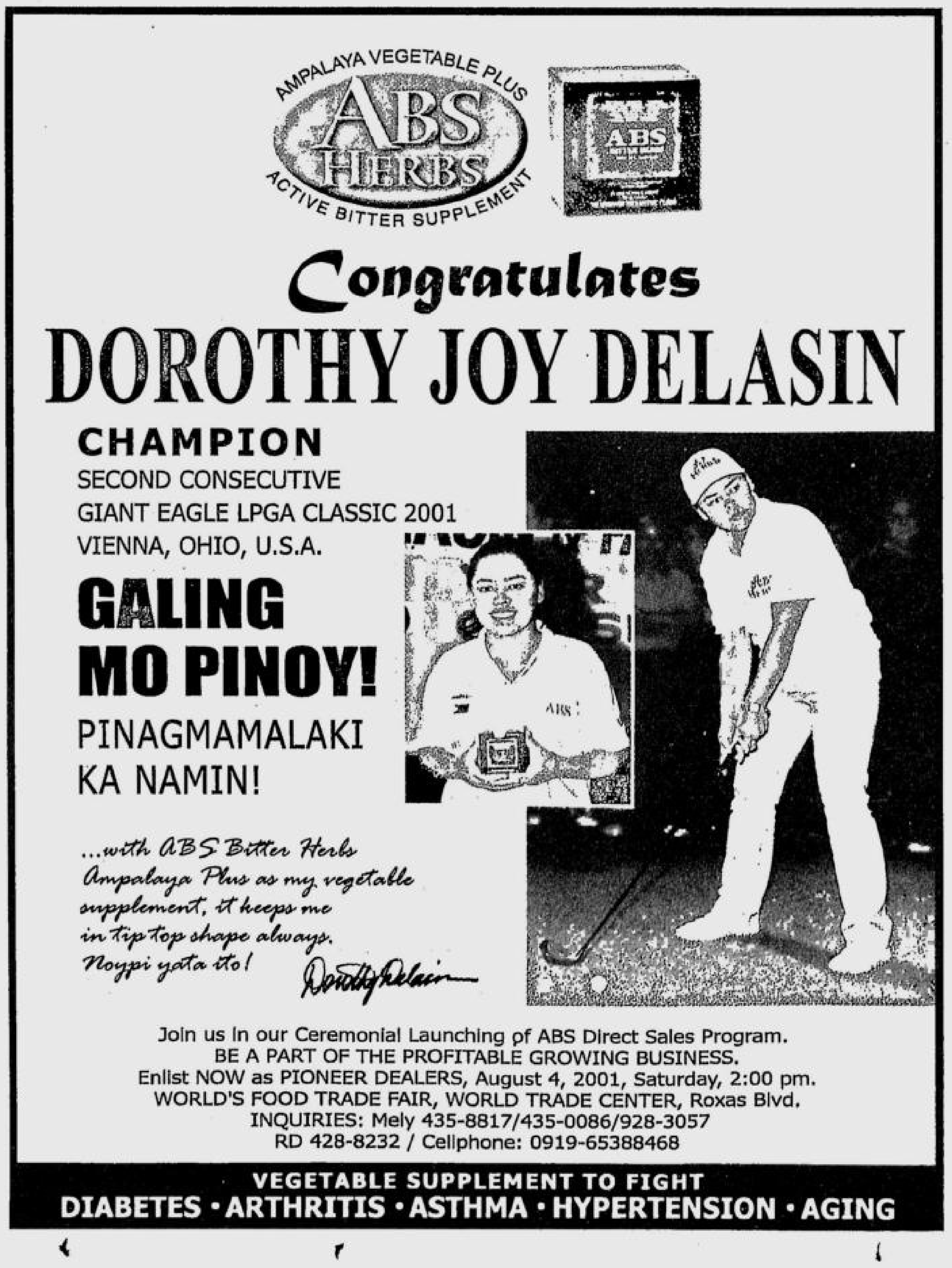

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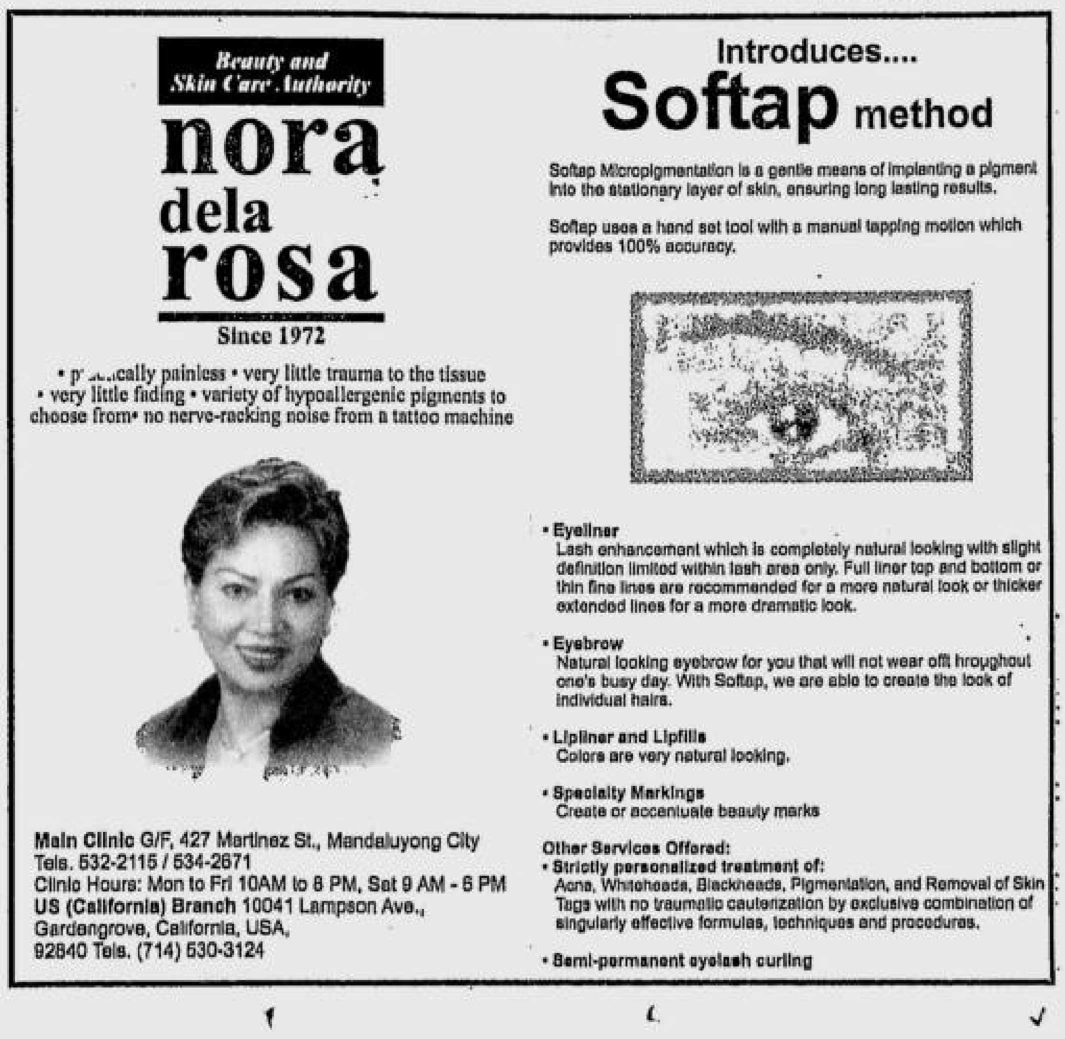

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DOJ orders dismissal of Puno libel suit vs PDI

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice ordered the withdrawal of a libel case against the Philippine Daily Inquirer for stories linking a brother of former Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to a supposed attempt to corner a hefty contract for hand-held radios in the Philippine National Police.

A DOJ resolution issued July 30 orders the City Prosecutor of Muntinlupa to withdraw the information finding probable cause for libel against the newspaper.

Rather, Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee said he found merit in the three separate petitions for review filed by the respondents.

These include INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, editor in chief Leticia Magsanoc, reporters Juliet Javellana and Dave Veridiano and sources who were quoted in the news stories.

Renato Puno said articles appearing from May 19 to 30, 1999 insinuate that he represented his brother, the former DILG secretary, in a plot to capture the government market, particularly those under the department's umbrella, for hand-held radios.

The stories were based on a letter sent to the secretary by Carmelo and Angela Rebeka Royeca, distributors of Motorola radio equipment.

The Royecas' letter detailed events that supposedly led to the presumption that Puno had a hand in taking away a P200-million contract already assigned to them.

Puno also complained about a separate letter sent by Motorola executives Mark Schmidl, and Dale Zuidema to then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora.

The letter alleged that the secretary exerted pressure to wrest the deal from the Royeca group.

Puno accused the respondents of conspiring and confederating to cause the publication of the letters.

In his review, Undersecretary Teehankee noted that the Royecas' letter to Secretary Puno contained nothing that would "impute a crime, vice or defect or an act that tended to cause dishonor" to the complainant.

"There appears no sufficient evidence to support the theory that it was written and delivered with malice," the DOJ resolution said.

"As aptly explained by (the Royecas, the letter) was made solely for the purpose of giving Secretary Puno the opportunity to clear his name in the reported mess," Teehankee said.

He also noted that the Royecas did not cause the publication of their letter. Rather, it was the secretary himself "who disseminated and published the contents of the letter."

Minority told: Take it or leave it

THE MAJORITY in the Senate yesterday appealed to the minority to accept the 10 committee chairmanships they had been offered, saying these were all that could be given them.

Majority leader Sen. Loren Legarda said that even if the minority did not decide by next week to accept the offers, the majority intended to go ahead and announce the committee chairmanships to be held by their own members.

Legarda said the majority has nominated its members to 25 committee chairmanships, five more than the 20 earlier announced by Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Senate sources said the additional chairmanships that would go to the majority are that for the blue ribbon, urban planning, energy, government corporations and public enterprises, and banking committees.

The committee on banking is expected to go to Senate president pro tempore Manuel Villar.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said the minority is "seriously studying" the offer made by the majority, but he noted that the minority should have been offered 11, not 10, committee chairmanships.

"It should have been 11. Eleven for 11 opposition members. That's the very least," Angara said.

He said they may end up fighting for the 10 chairmanships among themselves.

Drilon contended that 10 committee chairmanships were offered because the Senate minority leader cannot take over a committee.

"The Senate minority leader does not usually head a committee," Drilon said.

Told the minority had pointed out their leader ought to have a committee to chair since Villar was nominated to head a committee, Drilon said this was not correct as Senate rules do not bar Villar from serving as president pro tempore and chairing a committee as well.

Asked whether the minority could propose what committees they want to chair, he said, "I don't think so. I don't think that is possible."

Drilon reiterated that the committee chairmanships offered to the minority were substantial and some of them were handled by minority members in the 11th Congress.

He pointed out that Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta used to head the committee on youth, Sen. Blas Ople, foreign relations, and Sen. Gregorio Honasan, agrarian reform. *Christine Avendaño*

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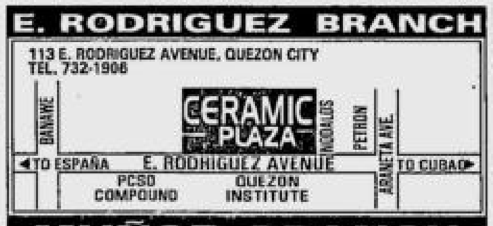

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EDITORIALS

Damaged goods

FOR SOME time now, INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo has written articles accusing Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson of various crimes, including pushing inconvenient witnesses off a helicopter into the open sea—a tactic straight out of the "dirty war" in Argentina. Lacson has denied all the accusations, and countered with an accusation of his own. The reason Tulfo is writing these articles now, Lacson said, is because he had cut off Tulfo's six-figure payola when he became chief of the Philippine National Police.

Serious charges all, and it simply won't do to leave them hanging in the air. After issuing blanket denials, Lacson is preparing to subject the intelligence and evidence that Tulfo has gathered to judicial valuation; in other words, he is getting ready to bring the matter to court. But perhaps the best forum for resolving the issue lies in the investigative power of the legislature. There are no signs from the Senate, however, that the administration or the opposition is starting an inquiry into the matter—and thus lay the legislative groundwork for a new law imposing, say, stricter rules on the use of intelligence funds (often the source of payola).

It is not correct to say that the controversy arose with the publication of Tulfo's "open letter" to Lacson on July 14. As Tulfo himself has admitted in his column, he parted ways with Lacson in 1999, when Lacson, then the chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, accused Deputy Director Gen. Roberto Lastimoso, then the PNP chief, of drug lord-coddling.

In the last few weeks, however, Tulfo's accusations against Lacson have gathered new steam. Now, with new material in hand, he is continuing his series. On top of the previous charges of torture, summary executions and obstruction of justice, he has added ill-gotten wealth and racketeering.

Lacson and his allies might ask: If Tulfo has the evidence he claims, why doesn't he file the appropriate charges in court?

Unfair as it may sound, the short answer is: Because it isn't his job.

The long answer considers the role that the media—a constitutionally privileged profession—play in a representative democracy. Simply put, a division of labor underlies the republican framework. This delineation of roles lies at the heart of the principle of checks and balances, which allows different parties in the constitutional order—and here the charter includes the media—to discharge the powers that the sovereign people entrusts to them.

It is the same division of labor that Tulfo says Lacson has regularly flouted since his early days in the dreaded MISG. From personal experience, Tulfo says Lacson acted on occasion as investigator, judge and executioner rolled into one.

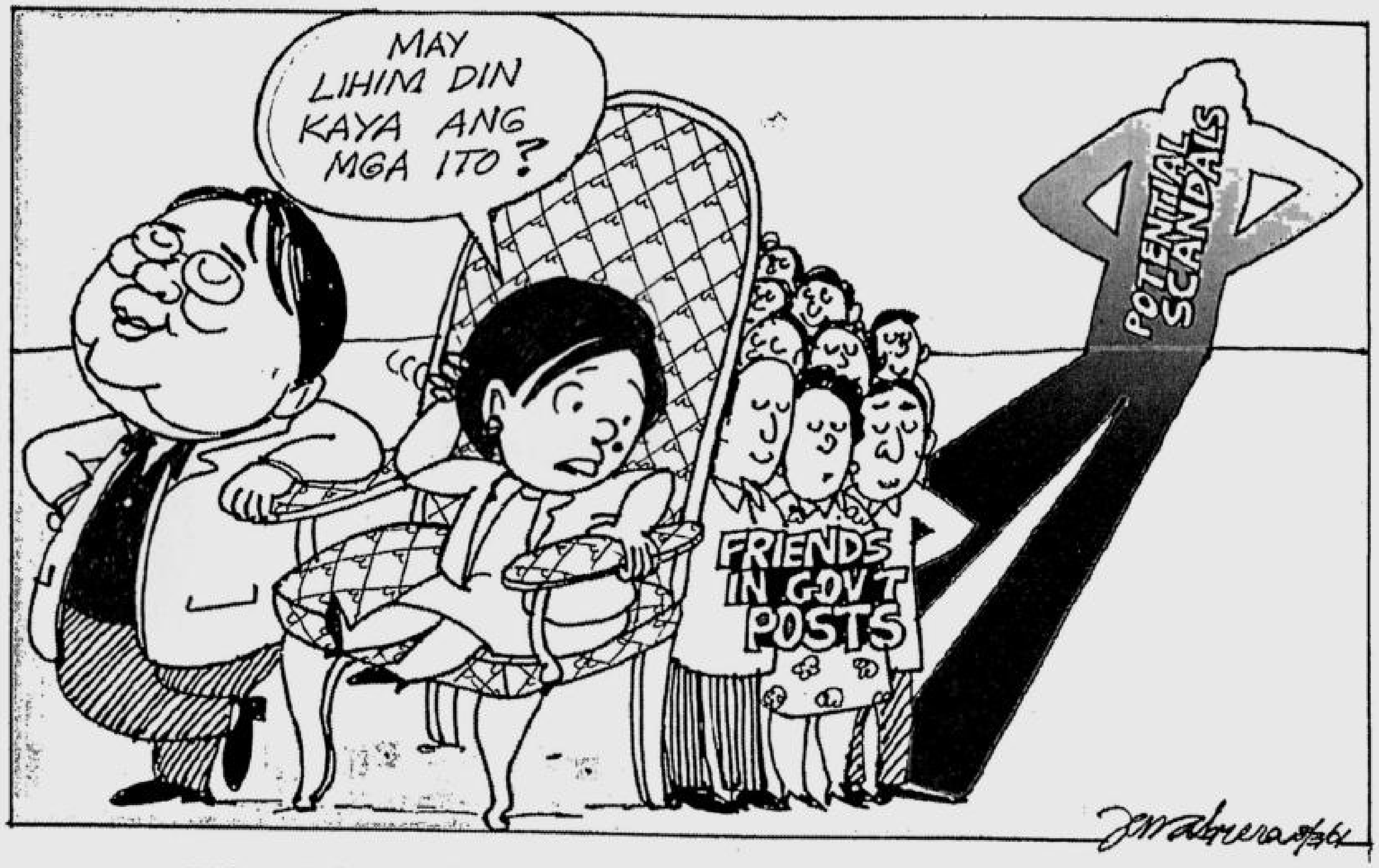
Collateral damage

GIVEN these accusations, it is high time that a responsible government agency—perhaps the House committee on public order and safety—commence hearings on the issue. (At the same time, the INQUIRER takes the payola charge seriously, and will take appropriate action against any of our reporters, editors and columnists—not just Tulfo in particular—proven to have participated in media corruption.)

As it is, the charges and countercharges have only served to deepen public distrust, not merely of one police-general-turned-senator, but of the entire police force. If Lacson is guilty as accused, then the PNP may have been, or continues to be, the country's largest criminal syndicate. At the very least, it may be the country's largest training ground for apprentice criminals.

The accusations against Lacson, it must be noted, have not been hurled in a vacuum. These alleged crimes must be added to the sensational charges aired by "Ador," who has claimed to be a civilian agent of the PAOCTF. They must also be considered together with the damning evidence in the kidnap-slaying of controversial publicist Salvador Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito, in which the hand of the PAOCTF is unmistakable.

All told, there is plenty of prima facie evidence for the government to get started on.



The big white elephant on Mt. Kanlaon

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

RECENTLY, the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) launched a publicity blitz crowing that its geothermal operations saved the Philippines P145 million in foreign exchange, or the energy equivalent of 5.37 million barrels of oil, in the first five months of the year. It claimed it saved a total of $1.17 billion in foreign exchange since 1983.

Very impressive—if 100 percent true. But it is only half of the picture.

The important question is: At what cost to the Philippine government and the taxpayers was this billion-dollar saving derived?

For PNOC-EDC's 600-megawatt geothermal complex in Leyte, the National Power Corp. (Napocor) was made to negotiate and sign a contract by Department of Energy and Malacañang officials for a minimum off-take of 450 mw, despite the fact that its requirements and transmission capacity in the Visayas was only 350 mw. The reason was 450 mw was the minimum the PNOC needed to meet its build-operate-transfer obligation to its own independent power producer (IPP).

Consequently, Napocor has been losing P3 billion a year to the PNOC. In other words, Napocor was made to absorb the losses in the PNOC's geothermal deals. The amount is equivalent to about half of the government's annual subsidy to Napocor.

So what's the lie for? To deodorize the stink of another scandalous geothermal project being pushed by the PNOC-EDC.

These two government energy firms have been trying to develop an 80-mw geothermal power complex in Mt. Kanlaon, Negros Occidental, since 1995. President Fidel V. Ramos even issued a presidential proclamation reserving 1,800 hectares of the Mt. Kanlaon forest reserve for geothermal exploration.

To complete the deal, the Department of Finance guaranteed a $129-million loan for the project. Unfortunately for the PNOC, Napocor had gotten wise since 1996 and refused to sign another expensive negotiated contract.

As a result, this project has no sure buyer of its electricity. Such was the case since its inception during the Ramos administration, the short-lived Estrada presidency and now the Macapagal administration.

Because of the lack of a committed buyer for its generated power, the project already violated the terms and conditions of the government guarantee for the loan.

However, despite the lack of a buyer or an off-take agreement to back the Mt. Kanlaon power project, PNOC-EDC officials announced that they would instead establish a merchant plant. These people must be warned.

The new officials installed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the departments of finance, energy, National Economic and Development Authority, PNOC and PNOC-EDC, including former Rep. Sergio Apostol, the new PNOC-EDC chair, are perhaps not aware that they are taking the government on a perilous path that could force the taxpayers to absorb the P7-billion loan for the Mt. Kanlaon project. Worse, there are reports that even President Macapagal is pushing Energy Secretary Vincent Perez to mollify the environmental NGOs opposing attempts to destroy Mt. Kanlaon's forests.

What's wrong with the Mt. Kanlaon project?

1. It has the makings of a white elephant. The PNOC's steam development for the last five years has been very costly, spending P650 million ($20 million) for consultants, drilling contracts, equipment rental, drilling pipes and other exploration costs, only to find a mere 8 mw of a 20-year steam supply. How much more government guaranteed loans will the PNOC spend to look for another 32 mw of steam for its 40 mw project?

By some estimates, it could reach P3 billion. At this cost just for the steam, not including the price of the power plant that will use it, energy experts say the project will be totally uncompetitive.

2. It will irreversibly damage Mt. Kanlaon's forests. So far, the PNOC has cleared 150 hectares of virgin forest and has found only 8 mw of steam. At this rate, it cannot find 32 mw of steam in 169 hectares even inside the protected national park.

What happens if the PNOC doesn't find 32 mw in the approved 169 hectares? Surely, the PNOC will not just pack up and leave and write off P2 billion to 3 billion or heads will roll. The PNOC-EDC will be forced to continue searching for more steam beyond the approved area. Easily, all 1,800 hectares originally reserved by President Ramos can be ruined.

3. Continuing the power project as a merchant plant is the riskiest in power generation ventures. At a time when the Macapagal administrating is burdened by a huge budget deficit, it is irresponsible for energy officials to take such risks.

A merchant plant is one with no guaranteed market. It hopes to sell power in the open market, as contrasted with having a minimum 70 percent guaranteed market.

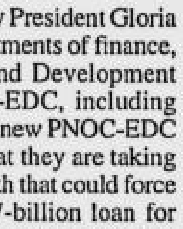
No private IPP would invest in a merchant plant in the Philippines in the foreseeable future. It is too risky and the government has no business going into it.

To achieve high power sales, a merchant plant has to drop its price, which the PNOC cannot afford given its high project costs.

In its publicity blitz, the PNOC is trying to hoodwink us into believing that as an indigenous energy source, geothermal is insulated from foreign exchange risks. But most of the costs of the Mt. Kanlaon project are in borrowed US dollars. At the rate the peso-dollar exchange rate is dropping, this would be an additional burden to our gargantuan foreign debts.

Secret identities

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

GREG Macabenta, who used to be the president of AMA, but is now head of his own advertising firm in San Francisco, a most successful one called Minority Media, tells me this story. While in New York to attend an advertisers' meeting, he was surprised to see how none of the speakers there referred to the Filipino community in their advertising strategies. They talked about the Chinese market, they talked about the Thai and Vietnamese and Indian market, they talked about the other ethnic markets, but they did not talk about the Filipino market. It was only after he stood up and spoke about the peculiarities of the Filipino community that the people there sat up and took notice.

What made it the strangest thing was that Filipinos are the biggest Asian immigrant group in the United States and the second biggest of all immigrant groups there, after the Mexicans. How can Americans possibly overlook such a huge market within their shores?

The answer, quite simply, is that Americans do not take that market to be distinct or separate from the mainstream one. The Chinese, Thais and Vietnamese are separate. They have their own language and own way of writing. More to the point, they have their own culture, as strange and exotic as temples and tigers and spices. We do not. We are, culturally, more amorphous.

One of the paradoxes of the Filipino community in America in fact is that despite its often being parochial—Filipinos tend to keep to themselves in social affairs, dealing with the bigger community only in work, or as the need arises—it is thought of as being pretty much integrated with the mainstream community. Filipinos speak English and think and act "just like Americans." Consequently, they are seen as extensions of the American market, not least by advertisers.

Unfortunately, Filipinos do tend to live up to the image at least as consumers—they prefer American or foreign brands. Jollibee and San Miguel made the mistake of thinking they had a captive Filipino market in the United States when they first built outlets there, and paid the price in poor sales. Filipinos in the United States did not automatically patronize them. They've since learned their lesson and are doing better by making the right pitches to the Filipino community there.

But the concept of Filipinos being thought of as somehow being more integrated into the mainstream American community than other ethnic groups made me wonder about the nature of that integration. I've always thought there was a difference between being integrated and being subsumed, between being assimilated and being submerged, between being accepted as part of something and being entirely lost in it. It is not hard to see where we belong. Although the Filipino community in America is huge, it has not gained a political clout commensurate to its size. The Mexicans have. Other ethnic groups have. We have neither been a factor in minority or, *suntok sa buwan*, mainstream American politics. The reason for this is the curious way in which we have been integrated into American life.

I've always thought that, paradoxically, you could never really be integrated, assimilated, or accepted as part of something bigger, unless you have a strong personality or identity. As with individuals, so with nations. The best relationships between individuals are never between one strong, or dominating, or domineering, person and one weak, or passive, or subservient person. I did not say "the most lasting relationships" because ironically those relationships do last a very long time.

That is what most relationships between Filipino couples are, particularly in the rural and urban poor areas, but not necessarily confined to them. The man is master of the house while the woman is an obedient servant. It a relationship that is invariably blessed—the women's groups will say cursed—with many children and is often regarded as a rock-solid union. But clearly, that is not "integration" in the most meaningful sense of the term. That is one person subsuming herself to another person. The woman may retain some or all of her idiosyncrasies, but she basically surrenders her identity to her husband—or benefactor in the case of mistresses.

The best relationships in fact are those between two persons with very strong personalities. I don't know that those relationships always last very long, I do know they are always very fulfilling, and passionate, ones. It takes two people who have minds and wills of their own, who have very definite ideas about who they are and what they want to be, to come together and become one. You cannot become one unless you are two to begin with—or remain two to end with. That is integration in the more meaningful sense of the term.

That distinction may help to throw light on the kind of "integration" Filipinos are experiencing in the United States. I do not mean to suggest by this that the Filipinos there are a subservient lot—they are vocal and articulate and deeply conscious of their rights. What I do mean to suggest by this is that we do have a very weak identity, we do have a very amorphous culture. We are everything—Asian, Western, islander, Malay, Chinese, Caucasian—and nothing. Our own ability to blend and adjust and lose ourselves in different social and cultural contexts, so magnificent an advantage in finding work abroad, is also our disadvantage. People can't quite figure out who we are or what we are, and just lump us off as part of the locals or under the category of "others," after they've ticked off the Indians, and the Thais and the Mexicans. We have not really been integrated, we have been subsumed. We have not really been given our place in the scheme of things, we have been drowned out in the order of life.

I do know that many Filipinos in the United States are trying to change that, to make the Filipinos known as a proud race that is doing their adopted homeland a world of good. Macabenta for one has done considerable research, and made a short documentary, on the Filipino presence in the United States—which dates back to the Galleon trade, many Filipinos jumping ship in New Orleans en route to Mexico—and the Filipinos' contribution to the building of that nation. He did that in the course of doing an ad for Wells Fargo, which won an Effie, the Oscars for advertising, in 1996.

I wish him and the other Filipinos in the United States all the luck in the world.

Trivializing people power

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

ACTOR Richard Gomez staged a rally at the Commission on Elections on Wednesday to protest against a Comelec decision disqualifying the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) as a party-list organization.

He unleashed a mob recruited from the urban poor of Tondo in an attempt to put pressure on the Comelec to reverse its decision. MAD also demanded the resignation of Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo. MAD has now challenged the decision in the Supreme Court whose guidelines in determining what is a party-list organization were implemented by the Comelec.

The method used by Gomez, who was an adviser on youth affairs of deposed President Estrada, smacks of the thuggery and the mob rule employed by Estrada's allies in the attack on Malacañang on May 1. It repeated on a smaller scale the cynical exploitation and manipulation of the poor whose interests cannot conceivably be advanced by MAD or Gomez.

MAD disputes the decision of the Comelec. It has to use arguments—not warm bodies and numbers—to counter those of the Comelec's decision and to persuade the Supreme Court to overrule the decision. Numbers can only compound the injury arising from bad arguments.

MAD may have a point when it argues that the Comelec should have made the ruling before the May elections. Such a request was also made by Bayan Muna, which topped the party-list election, allowing it to claim three seats for party-list representatives in Congress. That's the only thing in common between MAD and Bayan Muna. MAD came second, with 1.4 million votes that entitled it to three seats. But the Comelec ruling disqualifying MAD as a party-list organization cancelled this entitlement.

MAD was among the 17 of 24 party-list organizations disqualified by the Comelec for failing to meet the qualifications set by the Supreme Court. In its report to the Court, the Comelec said that MAD "does not appear to represent marginalized and unrepresented sectors." It also pointed out that MAD was funded by the Estrada administration, a ground for disqualification. Bayan and other Left-wing groups, including peasant groups, have sought the disqualification of MAD and other political parties associated with the past administration, claiming that they were using the party-list polls to gain entry into the legislature through the backdoor.

Quite apart from its timing, the Comelec's definition gives the public a clearer idea of what groups represent "marginalized and unrepresented sectors." The essence of the ruling seems to be that groups with access to public funds and don't represent a social category long excluded from political participation cannot be considered as "marginalized and unrepresented."

If the entry to the party-list system were too liberally construed, the meaning of marginalization could be devalued. Congress, as a policymaking body, is the place where interests of disadvantaged social groups can be articulated and translated into policy. Anti-drug crusaders, real estate developers, doctors and clones of political parties are by no means disadvantaged social groups. Their admission into the party-list representation can only serve to enhance the power and influence of advantaged groups.

The other objectionable, if not dangerous, aspect of sending mobs as pressure weapons to overturn decisions by state bodies is that it encourages anarchy. Fundamentally, a hundred thousand feet pounding the pavement or 1.4 million warm bodies laying siege to public institutions cannot make up for lack of reason.

MAD and a number of "civil society" groups, have come to believe that they can invoke "people power" or even mob rule to overturn adverse decisions by authoritative state bodies.

I happen to believe that people power can only be deployed and in fact be mobilized in great numbers on behalf of profound grievances like gross abuse of power by elected officials and large-scale pillage of the nation's wealth for the benefit of a few. Invoking people power for every grievance trivializes the notion of the exercise by the people of their sovereign right to redress outrageous abuses.

After the last constitutional crisis that culminated in the impeachment trial of Estrada, we are left with damaged institutions that need to be repaired and whose authority needs to be restored. Institutions are like referees in a political system against which social groups make contending claims. Somehow, in a functional and stable society, there has to be referees arbitrating or mediating conflicts and whose decisions must be accepted with grace.

Without this acceptance, every dissatisfied pressure or lobby group would be free to challenge decisions by authoritative bodies and to unleash the fury of the mob upon them. This invites intervention by security forces, a bad thing for democracy. People power can be an intoxicating tonic. It has begun to be taken literally, so much so that not only MAD but also civil servants go on a rampage of people power against managers whose style displeases them (as in the Social Security System) or new officials appointed to undertake reforms in the bureaucracy.

Judicial decisions are being challenged by people power or mob rule, based on the belief that numbers in the streets are superior to studied decisions of deliberative bodies. It has even come to a point where the jurisdiction of judicial bodies, let alone their legitimacy, has been challenged with arrogance by those who cannot accept the high court's decisions on legitimacy of a government. Lawyers argue, but judges set down the rules. Their decisions may be appealed against, but they must be followed in the interest of civil peace.

The issue we are talking about is not about partisanship. We are talking about the need to have authoritative decision-making bodies to protect institutions from being destroyed by mob rule. Somehow, public bodies have to make decisions and governments have to function and be allowed to govern.

Dinner in Malacañang

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

UNDER THE GAZE of 11 First Ladies, whose pastel portraits were done with great delicacy by Lulu Coching, we dined with the President on prawn thermidor and beef caldereta and wondered where the country's first First Gentleman was.

He was still abroad, his wife, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, said. But we spotted his portrait, a full-color photograph of Mike Arroyo, his hair slightly windblown, casual in a dark blue jacket, hanging in the place of honor all by his lonesome on the center wall.

"What's that, his family crest?" Pinoy Times owner Eggie Apostol wanted to know. "Yes, he had it researched by some company in Europe," the President replied.

By contrast, as our talk earlier that evening indicated, there doesn't seem to be any ancient family crests on the horizon for the Macapagals. The President herself hails from humble stock, her ancestors, including the now-legendary *labandera* grandmother, being peasants who were not able to give their illustrious descendant an ancestral home in their hometown of Lubao. Still, how many family members can say, as she did that evening, pointing out the First Ladies in the lineup, "Mrs. Magsaysay, Mrs. Garcia, my Mom...?"

Indeed, clad in a delicate pink shift and wearing chunky high-heeled red patent shoes, the President looked relaxed and very much at home in Malacañang where she spent a good deal of her childhood. After our dinner, she told us, she was going to cross the Pasig River to the golf driving range to put in an hour or so of practice. "It relaxes me and helps me sleep better," she confided.

* * *

IN THE COMPANY of four media women, of course, the talk could not but touch on current issues. Aside from Tita Eggie and myself, other guests included Ellen Tordesillas of Malaya (and author of a book on Erap's downfall that's selling briskly) and Domini Torrevillas of the Star. And aside from an occasional "is that already on the record?" from spokesperson Bobi Tiglao, the President seemed all too willing to accommodate our queries. (Others at the dinner were Press Secretary Noel Cabrera and Dante Ang, the President's "personal publicist" and new owner of the Manila Times.)

I understand there's an "off-the-record" agreement during these dinners (though to be honest nobody warned me beforehand), but there are a few things that I think can be shared with the public.

By this time, most of you should know that the next president and CEO of the Social Security System is Cora dela Paz, who recently retired as chair of the auditing firm Price Waterhouse Coopers. "I've offered her so many posts, all of which she turned down," the President confided. Among the offers made to Cora: chair of the Commission on Audit ("she turned it down because, I think, she didn't want to have anything to do with auditing at the moment") and head of the BIR. One post that Cora seemed interested in was as head of the Department of Energy, a chance to continue the legacy of her late husband, a former DOE head. But the law stipulates that the energy secretary "cannot have audited any energy firm (some) years prior to the appointment," said the President.

Anyway, I know that in Cora the President has found a woman of competence, integrity and incredible energy. And as a sister in TOWNS and other civic involvements, I must attest that she does us women proud.

Lanny Nañagas, the beleaguered former SSS head, will be named chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines, while Ernest Leung, the man he will replace, will be slotted into another finance position since "this government needs so many good men to look after financial matters," the President said.

* * *

I WANTED to know about the supposed intrigues in her Cabinet and why she named only four secretaries when, according to a news report, she was asked whom among her Cabinet members she favored.

"That was taken entirely out of context," she declared firmly. "I was being asked where I had known (budget secretary) Emy Boncodin, and I said she was approved by the screening committee. I said it was a choice I was so happy with because Secretary Boncodin has proven to be such a big help." Then, she said, she was asked whom else among her Cabinet members she had not known previously and had appointed based solely on the screening committee's recommendation. "That's when I mentioned the other three."

But how did the other Cabinet members feel about that? "*Masama ang loob nila* (They feel bad about it)," the President shrugged. When asked how she knew they felt bad, though, the President merely smiled.

So, is she really planning a Cabinet revamp? A shrug of her shoulders, and another enigmatic smile.

* * *

REALLY, there's no need to keep these intimate dinners off-the-record, as the President has long been adept at dodging questions she doesn't want to answer.

Despite all our provocation, she refused to reply directly to any questions about the hottest story in town, the (it seems) aborted scandal involving her husband and one of her oldest and closest friends. Even when one of the guests was dishing juicy gossip about one of the principals, the President kept a discreet silence, as the rest of us were oohing and aahing at the inside dirt.

The rest of the night merely showed us close-up what the President is like beyond the politics and scandals of the moment. An indication of the sort of person she is: One day last weekend, she viewed her son Mikey's latest movie, presided over a meeting of movie producers and the Videogram Regulatory Board to see how video piracy could be stopped, then left the meeting early to take in a Tagalog translation of a play by Shakespeare at UP. She raved about the play, by the way.

Old photographs

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

RENAN Prado, chair of the Ateneo's Department of European Languages, dropped by the office last week with murder in his eyes. He had just given his class a quiz and asked the students to identify a set of photographs and no one got Andres Bonifacio, Gregorio del Pilar and Apolinario Mabini right. Seeing the sepia tone of these pictures, students knew they were historical characters but could not connect names to the faces as blindfolded children tying to pin the tale on the donkey. Worse, everyone recognized Antonio Banderas! As a historian I should be shocked but I realized that, despite the speed of the Internet and the fantastic developments in communications technology, certain areas in our minds remain on the same level we left it in grade school.

How can a college student pick out Mabini from a group photograph when he or she is more attuned to pop stars, politicians, beauty queens and those smiling faces in the society pages? I thought of an experiment where we ask a group to describe Jose Rizal to someone doing cartographic sketches for the National Bureau of Investigation. Even if the people describing Rizal had a photograph in front of them, the person doing the drawing would never quite get a true likeness. These sketches of criminals all seem to look alike to me that when I see them on the news they always resemble someone in the neighborhood I don't like.

Paciano Rizal, the national hero's *kuya* who was always respectfully addressed as "[Se]ñor Ciano," was hardly photographed in his lifetime. Unlike his younger brother Jose, who was fully documented from grade school to the split second before he was shot 35 years later, history is left with only two photographs of Paciano. The first was taken before World War II in his lakeside home in Los Baños, when he was distracted by a relative as another took one blurred and grainy photograph—the only one we have of him alive.

The second photograph of Paciano was taken in a *funeraria* as he lay cold in a coffin and could not complain or resist. It was not vanity that kept Paciano camera-shy all his life. He was not ugly. Jose Rizal himself admits that his *kuya* looked better than he and that his one defect was that he was slightly bow-legged. Family tradition states that Paciano stayed clear of the cameras so that police who came looking for him would not recognize him on sight. This would have been true from 1872 to the Filipino-American War, but when he lived in retirement in Los Baños he refused to be photographed, probably out of habit. Thus, while Jose Rizal's face is immediately recognizable in the Philippines, that of Paciano, the other Rizal, remains obscure.

While we all know Jose Rizal from the parted hair and the stiff overcoat, we take a second look when we see him smile, smoke, wear a shawl over his head, impersonate an Egyptian, play a flute, or throw an apple at a friend. In the US Library of Congress last year I was surprised to uncover a Paris picnic scene with the Luna brothers Antonio and Juan, as well as the Pardo de Tavera brothers Felix and Trinidad, posing on the Bois de Boulogne. I did not recognize him at first, but the man lounging comfortably on the grass was Rizal. How come we do not immediately recognize Rizal if he does not take a "heroic" pose, if he does not act as the hero of stone and bronze we have in public plazas all over the archipelago and selected cities in the United States and Europe?

Some people are so iconographic we cannot imagine them in some other pose or context. Mabini will forever be an invalid to us, the so-called "Sublime Paralytic" because his most famous photograph was taken when he was in jail, a prisoner of the Americans. Would our image of Mabini change if we had photographs of him when he was at the height of his power? When he was the power behind Emilio Aguinaldo and the First Republic? Would our ideas and opinions of Mabini change if the only photograph that survived showed him on his feet? Would he still be sublime or a hero if he were caught on camera dancing a jig? Remember the dancing *senadora* at the close of Erap's impeachment trial? Photographs, like television, can be very cruel—how they are cropped and presented changes the way in which we view the sitter.

What would Cory Aquino be without her glasses and her trademark yellow dresses? What would Imelda Marcos be without the signature hairdo? Can you imagine Ms Marcos with her hair undone or permed into an Afro? Would we think better of Erap if we could edit out 100 pounds, the sideburns, wristband and moustache? Would Mike Arroyo be more agreeable if he looked like his son Mikey and dyed his hair blonde? Would the nation be different if President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo were six feet tall? If she were a man? How about Jaime Cardinal Sin in Bro. Mike Velarde's tacky suits and vice versa?

This is a silly column with senseless questions, that may give us pause from the problems of the country and make us imagine beyond ourselves. Maybe we should reflect on the role of images in the way we read, write and interpret history. Everything, it seems, is subject to our perceptions.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Happier times

Eufemia C. Estrada

ONE of the hardest lessons the elderly, particularly those who remain young at heart, have to learn is acceptance of the physical limitations that come with aging. I thought I had learned this lesson well, like pacing myself (limiting shopping sprees to one hour, avoiding going up and down the stairs and rolling inclines, frequent rests, etc.) and giving up travel abroad.

HIGH BLOOD

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

But this was severely put to the test recently when a delegation of family members was motoring to Iriga in Camarines Sur to witness the wedding of Tess who had been surrogate mother to two of the kids since they were born 11 and 12 years ago. Tess it was who took care of them when they were babies, handled the details of their birthday parties, accompanied them to the doctor when their Mom was tied up elsewhere, enrolled them in school, had their uniforms made, bought their books and eventually even drove them to and from school.

The two kids, members of the wedding party, were in fact, missing one day of school since the wedding was set for a Monday.

It was that important and I wanted to be part of it. A side trip to Legazpi was also scheduled in hopes of catching Mayon in eruption.

I made a list of the things I would need for a two-night stay, picked out a cool and comfortable outfit to wear to the wedding, baked a batch of brownies for snacking on the long trip and planned to order my favorite chicken empanada from my *suki*, too.

After much thinking and weighing of the pros and cons, I had to admit it would not be a wise move. Starting at 3 a.m. would disrupt my morning constitutional and I didn't want to be a burden to the group, a three-vehicle caravan, with frequent requests for stops.

The decision was not hard to accept. Readers familiar with the story of Frederick by Leo Lionni will understand why.

While his fellow field mice were busy storing up food for the long winter days ahead, Frederick, the dreamer, gathered sunrays, colors from the flowers and words for the long, cold and dark winter days ahead. When winter came with its long, dreary, dark days and the food had run out, Frederick brought out his cache of sunrays, colors and words to warm and color the days.

These days are far from long and dreary for me but some physical limitations are a reality, like the difficulty of going on a long land trip to Bicol.

By giving up the Bicol trip I missed seeing Mayon in eruption but then I've seen it in its perfect cone splendor (in 1962). Now its perfect cone has been disfigured by the current volcanic activity.

On the same 1962 trip, I trekked one kilometer on a foot-wide mountain trail to see a little-known waterfall.

I must confess I didn't actually get to the falls. Ashen-gray from the nerve-wracking experience, I just sat down in the midst of the lush vegetation when we reached safer ground on the other side of the mountain, trying to regain my nerve for the return trip, while the others hied off to view the falls.

Trekking on a foot-wide mountain trail with the ravine on one side is a feat in itself, never mind if I had to hold on to the belt of one of the men in the group till we reached safer ground.

Actually, midway through the trek, I was doing all right (no fear) until the woman just ahead of me started retching and looking down at the ravine that I caught her fear—acrophobia! This was when my hero came to the rescue by offering the security of his belt for me to hold on to.

In the '70s I had the opportunity to go market-hopping all over Albay from my base at the Bicol University in Legazpi where I was attending a 10-day science reporting workshop for high school kids as one of the advisers. Going to market you see, is one of my passions. Every morning that was free I set off for the town holding its market day—Tabaco, Daraga, Camalig, Cagsawa—just to gawk at the abundant array of fresh produce in the market stalls. The only purchase I remember making was some avocado which I mixed with milk and sugar and shared with other delegates to the workshop. It was here that I saw for the first time sprigs of anise, a marvel for a city mouse like me. In Tabaco, I got a *palo-palo* made of hard wood which some other teacher-delegates just had to have, too.

Every morning I'd cross the street to a small eatery to get *laing* for my breakfast. Would you believe I don't touch the stuff now?

On the train homeward-bound from Bicol; this time with university women, my co-delegates enjoyed a hearty laugh when I brought out my jute sack (used for one cavan of rice) and started stuffing it with my loot from forays in the local shops.

Missing the family outing to Bicol wasn't so bad after all, not with my cache of colorful, happy memories of earlier trips during my salad days. For truly, in times like this, "it is our dreams of happier times which alone can sustain us."

Eufemia C. Estrada, 71, used to write a weekly cooking column for the INQUIRER*'s Lifestyle section.*

Battling the Big C

Felicia V. delos Santos

NEVER did I imagine that at any moment in my life I would be confronted by a dread disease like cancer. But here I am, sick and suffering and struck down with the Big C. Yes, breast cancer. When my husband died of cancer some three years ago, I vowed to myself that I wouldn't let myself go through the devastating effects of the disease because after the operation, you don't really have any life at all. Might as well sleep to death and forget about life. What quality of life would one expect when you are tied down to a forest of crisscrossing tubes and IVs with high-sounding medicines, the costs of which soar to high heavens and you worry day and night where the next money will come to buy them? And the cure remains as iffy as ever? So, never mind.

And so, here I am, devastated, bedridden and shockingly in pain. What a sorry state—Stage 3. So, the good doctor says one has to go through the six cycles of chemotherapy, mastectomy, radiation and what else. God, what suffering is this? I am not sure what to think. In my pensive and prayerful moment, I tell God, "Okay, just a few years more and I'm ready to let Death take its course." There's joy in the thought that I would be joining my husband wherever he is. Just don't make me suffer so much pain. I would smile and think—what a brave pronouncement. What is there to look forward to?

I have fulfilled myself. I have gone places. I have done my duties to my four children. As for my 11 grandchildren, I would just look down from wherever I am and smile when I see that they have grown to be good men and women. I have served the university well for 41 years and touched so many lives in my career as a teacher—students, friends, relatives and even enemies. I must say to myself—really, I have lived a meaningful life. Perhaps, God would give me a little like sparing me a few years and letting me enjoy what life has to offer still.

When I left for the United States two months ago as an immigrant, the lump was already there. Of course, the usual attitude of ignoring and not thinking about it was there. It couldn't be. Hoping to find my corner of the world in the United States I tried to seek what most Filipinos try to find—their American dream—better opportunities and material wealth. But the problem would not go away. Alone and lonely, I decided to come home to my country after two months of stay in the United States. Never mind the social security. Forget about the 21 years of waiting for a visa. Erase the humiliation and loss of pride going through a medical checkup. Never mind the worries and anxieties of going through the immigration line. There is no place like home when one is sick. I need my family. So, now, I am down and out and wait for what tomorrow will bring. Is there a future for a victim of cancer like me? What quality of life awaits me? God only knows. At this point, I beg God to please take care of me.

Felicia V. delos Santos, 66, is a retired teacher of the UP Integrated School. She has worked for the university for 41 years.

Richard's misguided logic

LETTERS

RICHARD Gomez's twisted logic that since "MAD garnered 1.4 million votes, it should not be disqualified" is just like saying Erap should still be president since millions of people voted for him. Twisted and illogical reasoning from another actor-turned-politician.

In the first place, the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) may not have been disqualified had Gomez not shot himself in the foot by admitting in a TV interview that MAD received nearly P5 million last year from the Estrada administration. Evidence that MAD was a government agency and not a party-list organization. MAD members should instead use "people power" against Gomez for incriminating statements against their organization instead of Gomez's leading demonstrations against the proclamation of the legitimate party-list groups.

Gomez should stick to movieland's slapping, yelling, screaming and kissing. After all, he did admit that he earns millions from the movies and that he doesn't need to be "corrupt" to earn. Sounds familiar?—**GERRY MALIXI, 9 Molave cor. Escario Sts., Lahug, Cebu City**

Plea from a waterless consumer

DESPITE being waterless ever since and paying exorbitant fees for water not fit for human consumption, I find the petition of the Maynilad Water Services to increase water rates fair and reasonable.

I hope people will be circumspect in this matter for the benefit of the majority. We can argue and contest the petition of Maynilad, but this can only work to the detriment of the majority of consumers who will remain waterless. I do not defend Maynilad only for my personal interests, hoping to have water connection in the near future, but I believe its request is fair, reasonable and affordable to all. I hope we will not complicate and politicize this issue for the sake of suffering waterless consumers like me.—**BUENAVENTURA C. CENZON, 10 C. Parsons Drive, BF Homes, Parañaque City**

Look into GSIS 'loyalty incentive' plan

THIS pertains to Neal Cruz's column titled, "Bigger robbery in GSIS 'loyalty incentive plan'."

We, the employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Region 10, would like to give our heartfelt congratulations and thanks to him for his exposé of the Government Service Insurance System's "loyalty incentive plan." We are grateful to Cruz for coming out with the exposé and hope that the Office of the President, the Department of Budget and Management and other concerned entities like the Senate will look into the loyalty incentive plan being implemented by the GSIS.

We agree with Cruz that the delivery of services by the GSIS to its members is very slow even though it has many employees. As members, we are not informed of the outstanding balance of our loan. We only get to know this when we apply for another loan or retirement. The dismal service rendered by the GSIS to its members does not make sense considering the perks enjoyed by officials of the GSIS.

Indeed, the retirement plan of the GSIS is a glaring misuse of money of its members. We hope the time won't come when we cannot avail of loans or as retirees we will no longer receive our pension because the coffers of the GSIS are empty. We cannot allow this to happen.

We believe that now is the right time to scrutinize the financial and other incentives of the GSIS and other government-owned or controlled corporations and government financial institutions.—**WITH 237 SIGNATORIES, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Region 10, Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro City**

Perennial Edsa floods

THE FLASH floods and the resulting traffic gridlocks last week were not the first nor will they be the last time that the metropolis is paralyzed. Like a bad nightmare that refuses to go away, this modern plague will make our lives miserable in the years to come unless people in the appropriate government agencies take action now.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the management of the Metro Rail Transit should be made to explain why roads on the MRT line on Edsa get flooded during heavy rains. The amount of wasted time, effort and money, not to mention the damage caused to vehicles and property, should be enough reason to give urgent attention to this matter.

I am asking these government agencies to give priority to resolving this problem. If they cannot do anything about this blight, they have no business wallowing in comfort bought by taxes extracted from hard-earned salaries of the Filipino workers. *Mahiya naman kayo*!—**DENNIS CONCEPCION, dennis.concepcion@ph.unisys.com**

Land O'Lakes
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ANNOUNCEMENT

The largest feed company in the United States of America, Land O'Lakes Farmland Feeds is pleased to announce the appointment of Western Sales Trading Company Philippines, Inc. ("WSTCO Phils") as the exclusive distributor of Land O'Lakes Farmland Feeds products in the Republic of the Philippines.

Land O'Lakes Farmland Feeds is a joint venture between Land O'Lakes, Inc. and Farmland Industries, Inc. that consolidated all aspects of the feed business of Land O'Lakes and Farmland Industries. The joint venture has resulted in the United States' largest feed company. The joint venture combines Farmland Industries and Land O'Lakes production, distribution and marketing of formula feed and feed ingredients, animal health products and pet and specialty products. The joint venture began operation in the summer of 2000.

Land O'Lakes is a national, farmer-owned, food and agricultural cooperative with over six billion dollars in annual sales. Land O'Lakes does business in all fifty (50) of the United States and more than fifty (50) countries. It is the leading marketer of a full line of dairy based consumer, food service and food ingredient products and it serves its international customers with a variety of food and animal feed ingredients and an extensive line of agricultural supplies including feed, seed, plant food and crop protection products and services.

Farmland Industries is also a farmer owned cooperative with sales in all fifty (50) States and more than sixty (60) countries. It provides services and products to 600,000 farm owners in the United States, Canada and Mexico, with product lines including crop production and crop protection products, livestock feeds, grain processing and marketing and the processing and marketing of pork, beef and catfish products.

The Land O'Lakes and Farmland Industries joint venture will now concentrate through its Philippines distributor, WSTCO Phils, its top quality line of medicated and non-medicated animal feed products in the Philippines. Land O'Lakes Farmland Feeds animal feed products are made to the highest U.S. standards and are formulated in consultation with top U.S. veterinarian and animal nutritionists.

In recent years, the high quality of Land O'Lakes Farmland Feeds products had led to an increasing demand throughout the Philippines for a broader range of Land O'Lakes Farmland Feeds products and easier access to those products. Land O'Lakes Farmland Feeds has responded to this demand by entering into an exclusive distribution agreement with WSTCO Phils to assure the widespread availability of Land O'Lakes Farmland Feeds products throughout the Philippines, and to implement a distribution network that will make Land O'Lakes Farmland Feeds products easily available to both rural and urban consumers. Land O'Lakes Farmland Feeds welcomes WSTCO Phils as a member of its worldwide distribution network and looks forward to serving the animal feed needs of the Philippines for many years to come.

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Land O'Lakes Farmland Feeds

By: **Jerry Booren**
Its Vice President

Foreigners damaged RP culture

PETER Wallace asked, "Does the Philippines have a chance?" Then he preempted President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address by copying much of what had been said by the Palace in previous weeks.

Wallace doesn't give the Philippines much of a chance as he agrees with James Fallows, saying "he was right, this is a damaged culture. It is a selfish culture."

Presumably he also agrees with what Fallows wrote: "In 1987, roughly one year into Corazon Aquino's term...Agriculture? It's been heavily skewed for 50 years to plantation crops. All those traditional exports are down. Agriculture was also nearly paralyzed by arguments over land ownership. Since the Spanish days, land has been concentrated in a few giant haciendas, including the 17,000-acre Hacienda Luisita, owned by the Cojuangco family, of which Corazon Aquino was part, and no government had done much to change the pattern. Indeed the moment of truth, when it became clear that Corazon Aquino would not save the Philippines, was when she decided very early in her term not to insist on land reform...When I took cabs in Manila, the drivers routinely inquired if I wanted a woman. When my wife returned our children's rented inner tubes to a beach vendor at Argao, the vendor, a toothless old woman, asked if she was lonely in her room and needed a hired companion."

What was ignored by these two foreigners is how much foreign corruption has damaged our culture like the brothels disguised as bars where foreign pimps profit from prostituting our women and the pedophiles who destroy our children. There should be balance in the writings of foreigners.—**ANTONIO S. CRUZ, L.V. Locsin Bldg., Ayala corner Makati Avenues, Makati City**

Virtue and honor are not in the genes

YOUR editorial, "Who got the money?" (PDI, 7/27/01) somewhat bothered me for I've said many times before that a family deteriorates on the third generation or even sooner.

Haven't you heard of a "black sheep" in a family? That happens! And I don't speak of poor families but of affluent ones.

The argument that Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo cannot do wrong because she is the daughter of the late former Sen. Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo, who was "well-known for his integrity and courage in standing up to the dictator Ferdinand Marcos" does not make his daughter(s) or son(s) carbon copies of their illustrious father.

It just does not follow. It does not wash!

How many times have we heard of criminals (car thieves, grafters, rapists, etc.) who are children of prominent parents known for "integrity"?

Honesty, honor, nobility and integrity are virtues earned by each and everyone of us. They are not hereditary.

The dictum "like father, like son" (or in some cases, "like mother, like daughter") more often than not, applies to wrongdoings if only to put emphasis on the indiscretions of a parent or parents publicly known for their sins.

I have never lived under the shadow of my late father's good name, or wallowed over what many say that my father was a good and honest man. Thanks for that; but I have to live up to his name and earn my own respectability. Otherwise, we could be the son or daughter of God and still be a Cain or a Jezebel!—**MANUEL L. MORATO, Doña Consuelo Bldg., 192-194 Tomas B. Morato Ave., Quezon City**

Proper monitors of GMA's programs

THE EFFICIENCY of implementing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's "35 promises" is not in her Cabinet members but on those hundreds of offices, agencies, corporations, bureaus that were left unmentioned in her State of the Nation Address but are ultimately and directly responsible on the ground. The heads of these bureaus have capabilities ranging from the dynamic to the dead. Who keeps track of their decisions generating these services? Their role is crucial yet unmonitored to the public (except for some infrequent media exposés).

It's the people who ought to benefit from these services. But because of petty graft, "*kotong*" mentality, incompetence, red tape and a hundred other causes, much of these services remain unrealized. The Malacañang "war room" is not enough. It may even be self-serving since the general public is not given an opportunity to watch the official monitoring.

Let's focus, as an example, on the poverty alleviation program since this was highlighted in the Sona. The poor are supposed to be the final beneficiaries of all the services through hundreds of official delivery systems (read: bureaucracies). Who could be a better monitor of these services than the poor themselves?

I am not aware that the mechanisms for this is in place among the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the local government units, the local police, the price watcher of the Department of Trade and Industry, the anti-junk food centers in the public schools, the pro-nutrition program of the Department of Health—all of which pass through the various government delivery channels. The monitoring coming from government agencies themselves often end with the embarrassing cover-up of botched services or services not delivered.

May I strongly suggest that the thousands of NGOs in the "basic sectors," as the National-Anti-Poverty Commission calls them, be recognized to officially watch and report whether or not these bureaucracies that are supposed to help in the alleviation of poverty are doing their jobs well. This is the only authentic monitoring we can get from the ground, from those the pro-poor programs intended to serve.—**RAUL E. SEVOGIA, chair, Citizen's Alliance for Consumer Protection and vice chair, National Consumer Affairs Council, 2864C Zamora St., Pasay City**

Health care a human right

I WOULD like to add to the enlightening words of Dr. Joseph Carabeo (PDI, 7/26/01) that health matters are also human rights issues as Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights shows: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care, and necessary social services..."

So, the fact that 8 out of every 10 Filipinos cannot afford the health care they need should be considered a clear violation of a fundamental human right and, no doubt, must be addressed as a key objective by the government. It is a public health problem that needs an urgent solution affordable for every Filipino.—**JOSE LUIS PORTERO NAVIO, M.D., Tuberculosis Research and Training Center, Tayuman Street corner Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

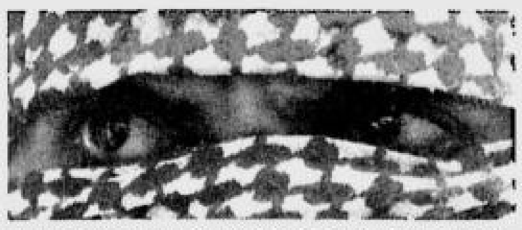
Anger grows over Israeli killings

ROME—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, redoubling his call for international observers to be sent to the violence-wracked Middle East, was set to meet Pope John Paul II yesterday.

Arafat met Italian leaders here Wednesday as international condemnation grew over Israel's policy of targeted killing of Palestinian activists.

The focus of the criticism of Israeli policy, which US Secretary of State Colin Powell described as "too aggressive," was a rocket attack Tuesday by Israeli forces which killed six Hamas activists and two children in the West Bank town of Nablus.

The US State Department condemned the attack as "provocative" and "excessive" and warned of "a new and dangerous escalation of violence."



A MASKED Hamas member at a rally in Gaza City Aug. 1. REUTERS

China, Russia, the United Nations and France joined Arab and other leaders in the growing international chorus of disapproval over Israel's military tactics.

Up to 100,000 Palestinians massed in the West Bank town of Nablus Wednesday for the funeral of the six hardline Islamic activists and two children. The anger boiled over into violent clashes with Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Hebron, where a Palestinian man was shot dead by Israeli forces.

Israel shrugged off the international outcry over its policy of killing Palestinians it considers a threat to its citizens.

Despite international condemnation of the deadly helicopter raid, Israel said it would stick to its policy of "targeted liquidations," citing its right to self-defense and its obligation to protect its citizens.

Arafat said Wednesday he would appeal to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who chaired last month's Group of Eight summit in Genoa, during a scheduled meeting Thursday "to do everything possible" to enable the deployment of peacekeepers in the troubled region. *AFP*

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UK, Ireland unveil new peace package

BELFAST, Northern Ireland—The British and Irish governments gave their peace proposals Wednesday to key Northern Ireland parties, emphasizing that a start to Irish Republican Army disarmament was crucial to saving the province's Catholic-Protestant administration.

But the danger to Northern Ireland's fragile peace was underscored hours later when a car bomb was found at the main airport west of the capital. British Army experts used two controlled explosions to defuse the 10-kg bomb inside an abandoned Volvo. No group claimed responsibility.

The British secretary of state, John Reid, and Irish Foreign Secretary Brian Cowen unveiled the 2,400-word document at Hillsborough Castle, Reid's residence outside Belfast, after months of grueling diplomacy. They appealed to politicians to respond positively by Monday, saying the survival of the 1998 peace accord was at stake.

"Over the past three years we've come a very long way in Northern Ireland in addressing the historic and deep-seated problems here," Reid said. "Having traveled this far, it would be nothing short of tragic if that progress were to be jeopardized now."

"The continuing stalemate can only play into the hands of those who would wreck all that we have worked so hard together to achieve," Cowen said, referring to recent sectarian riots in Belfast and Wednesday's funeral for the latest victim, a teenager shot to death by fellow Protestants.

The document sought to spur IRA disarmament and, in turn, a continuation of Northern Ireland's 20-month-old administration, which faces suspension or total collapse by Aug. 12. Disarmament and power-sharing are both important goals of the Good Friday pact.

Wednesday's proposals contained no detailed demands for an IRA move, only a statement that it must happen in cooperation with a Canadian-led disarmament commission set up in 1997. Analysts expected the IRA's ruling Army Council to respond to the British-Irish plan within the next week. *AP*

Hundreds missing from Indonesian floods found alive

GUNUNG SITOLI, Indonesia—Hundreds of people reported missing after floods and landslides killed at least 35 on a remote Indonesian island have turned up safe, officials said yesterday.

However, the whereabouts of about 200 villagers in the mountainous interior of Nias Island, off the west coast of Sumatra, were still unknown.

Local government official Herlan Tandjung said rescuers had made contact with more than 600 people who had been unaccounted for since floods triggered by days of heavy rain hit the island on Tuesday.

Most of the survivors had moved to higher ground to escape rising waters, he said.

"We are still looking for the missing people," said a local police chief Muhammad Nainggolan. "We hope they are not buried alive."

Initially, local officials had reported that 64 people had died. However, they scaled the figure back after they received more reliable information from the disaster sites.

Seen from the air, flood waters had washed away roads and covered the southwest of the island. A major river had burst its banks and landslides had flattened trees and scarred hillsides.

On the ground, hundreds of police officers and villagers were digging through mud and wreckage to find survivors and bodies.

At least 1,500 people were made homeless by the disaster. They sheltered in four camps in Lalusa district, one of the worst-hit areas, said Gen. Kusnanto, Nias police commander.

Kusnanto, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, said there was no heavy equipment on the island and rescue efforts were being hampered by the blocked roads and swollen rivers.

An Indonesian Navy ship was scheduled to arrive on the island late Thursday to evacuate victims, the state news agency Antara reported.

Hundreds of foreign tourists, mostly surfers, visit Nias every year because of its large waves and pristine beaches. *AP*

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ONCE THERE WAS A WALL

A girls jumps over a line marking where the former Berlin Wall used to stand Aug. 1. The Berlin Wall was built 40 years ago on Aug. 13 by the Communist East German government in an attempt to prevent its citizens from fleeing to the West. More than 200 people were killed between 1961 and 1981 trying to scale the wall. REUTERS

Japan foreign minister faces ouster for clash with Koizumi

TOKYO—Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka may be dismissed for clashing with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi over the replacement of top diplomats and her opposition to Koizumi's planned visit to a war shrine, reports said yesterday.

Tanaka has defied Koizumi by ignoring his orders to fire Japan's ambassador to the United States, Shunji Yanai, to take responsibility for a ministry embezzlement scandal.

"If she does not follow the order, we cannot help but say that her resignation will come," a close aide to the prime minister said, according to the Yomiuri Shimbun evening edition.

"The confusion triggered by Foreign Minister Tanaka is blocking the ministry from carrying out daily operations," the aide said, adding the internal row was "damaging national interests."

Jiji Press news agency quoted a source close to Koizumi as saying: "Her dismissal is possible."

The independent-minded Tanaka, Japan's first woman foreign minister, had been regarded as one of Koizumi's closest allies.

She campaigned forcefully for Koizumi, another maverick politician, during his bid for the presidency of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in April, which led to his assuming the premiership.

But a rift has reportedly opened up after Tanaka insisted that Yanai should stay in his job ahead of a planned visit by US President George W. Bush to Japan in October.

Tanaka yesterday said she needed more time to make a final decision on major personnel changes in the scandal-hit foreign ministry, Kyodo News agency reported.

"It's not a good idea to bustle about and quickly decide on personnel issues," Tanaka was quoted as saying.

However, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda called on Tanaka to put an end to the personnel confusion at the ministry by a Cabinet meeting on Aug. 10.

"Our view is that it is not good to prolong confusion," the top government spokesperson said.

Tanaka and Koizumi are also divided over the prime minister's planned visit to the controversial Yasukuni war shrine on Aug. 15, the anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.

The nationalist Koizumi says he has no intention of changing his plan to visit the shrine in Tokyo—where convicted war criminals are venerated—despite strong opposition from China and South Korea.

On Sunday, Tanaka met with Koizumi and asked him to reconsider his plan following a request from China's foreign minister last week.

"I clearly told (Koizumi) that I do not want him to visit Yasukuni Shrine," she told a news conference.

"A final decision should be made by him, but I want him to think again of what kind of person the prime minister is," Tanaka said. "I think he will think about it seriously as he still has two weeks."

Conservative Japanese politicians make an annual pilgrimage to the shrine, which honors 2.5 million Japanese killed in a century of conflicts up to World War II.

But so far only one post-war prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1985, has visited the shrine in his official capacity. *AFP*

Artificial heart patient exercising

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—A terminally ill man who received the world's first fully implantable artificial heart 30 days ago is making a "remarkable" recovery, surgeons said Wednesday.

The 50-something patient, who was close to death before undergoing the pioneering procedure a month ago, is walking and breathing unassisted for the most part, and is in high spirits.

"He has exceeded our highest expectations," said Dr. Robert Dowling, who performed the landmark surgery at Louisville's Jewish Hospital.

"The first 30 days have been an overwhelming success."

A diabetic with end-stage heart disease, the man was selected as a candidate for the surgery because of his poor prognosis: doctors gave him just a nine-percent chance of surviving another month prior to the July 2 operation.

He was severely malnourished, barely had the strength to lift his head up to speak to his doctors and required the attention of four nurses, Dowling recalled.

"He was facing death 30 days ago and he knew it. He was very cognizant of his own mortality," said Dowling.

Since the operation to replace his heart with a plastic and titanium pump, called an AbioCor, the patient's vital functions have improved.

His artificial heart is pumping seven liters of blood a minute compared to the two liters of a month ago.

Tests show his liver and kidney function continue to improve.

Where once he could not pass a six-second walk test, he can now walk 30 meters on his own.

He is gaining in strength with the help of physical therapy and free weights, and although still severely under-nourished, and still dependent on a tube for feeding, he is consuming almost 3,000 calories a day—far more than he could have managed before.

But he still needs to add another 13.6 kilos of muscle mass.

And although he occasionally has to rely on a ventilator for help in breathing, he is for the most part breathing on his own, his doctors reported.

"He is hardly ever in his room . . . he's up and on the go," joking and teasing the medical staff, listening to jazz CDs, and watching videos, Dowling said.

The patient, who probably will publicly identify himself in the next two weeks, "is very excited to be doing so well," Dowling told reporters at a press conference.

"Sometimes he really wears himself out because he is talking so much."

A second patient is expected to undergo the experimental surgery next month, Dowling said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Kuwait fears Iraq 'threat'

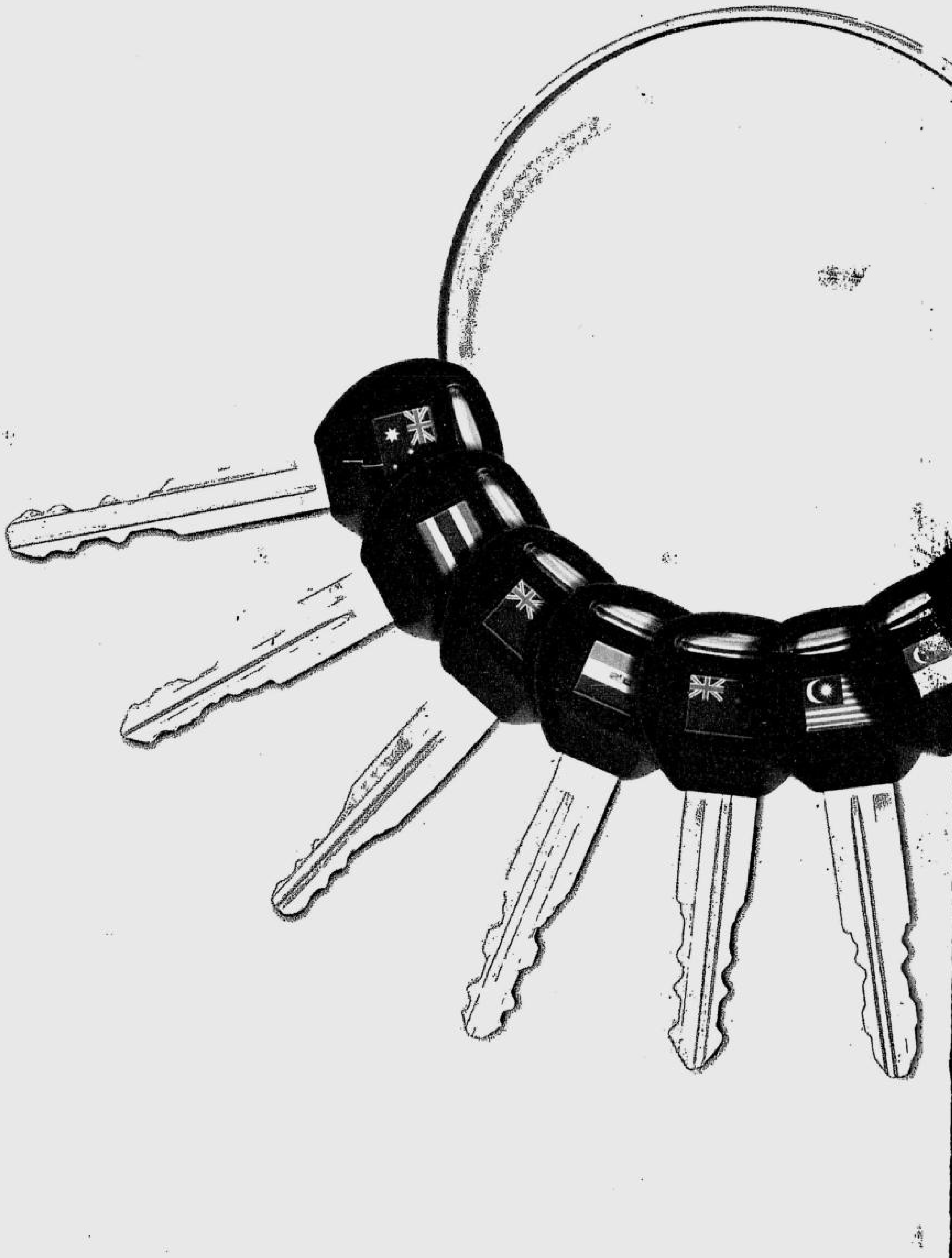
UNITED NATIONS—Eleven years after Iraq invaded, Kuwait believes Saddam Hussein is trying to destabilize the region and is taking new Iraqi threats of terrorist attacks on Kuwaiti installations very seriously, Kuwait's acting UN representative says. "We are not ruling anything out, and particularly on Aug. 2," Mansour Al-Otaibi said in an interview Wednesday night. "We have no trust of this regime, and we know he still poses a threat. If he had any chance to do it again, he might do it." On Aug. 2, 1990, Saddam sent Iraqi troops and armored vehicles across the border and shortly afterward annexed Kuwait. Less than six months later, a US-led coalition force routed the Iraqis in the Gulf War and liberated the tiny oil-rich nation. *AP*

Mexico-US tit for tat

MEXICO CITY—The Mexican Congress Wednesday called on President Vicente Fox to bar US trucks from entering the country if Mexican trucks are restricted access to US highways. The resolution was adopted only hours after the US Senate, disregarding the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), voted to restrict entry of Mexican trucks into the United States. Earlier in the day, US lawmakers ruled that strict US safety standards should be imposed on Mexican trucks before they are allowed to bring goods into the United States. Under NAFTA provisions, Mexican trucks were to be allowed to transport goods throughout the United States beginning Jan. 1. *AFP*

Wahid planning memoirs

JAKARTA—Indonesia's deposed president Abdurrahman Wahid is planning to write a "white book" about his tumultuous 21-month rule, the official Antara news agency reported yesterday. Wahid's daughter, Zannuba (Yenni) Arifah Chafsoh Rahman, told Antara during an interview in Baltimore in the United States the book would explain the thinking behind her father's frequently controversial policies, including his order to "freeze" both houses of parliament and the former ruling party Golkar. Wahid—who is almost blind following a stroke—underwent medical tests in Baltimore after he was impeached by the national assembly and replaced by his deputy, Megawati Sukarnoputri on July 23. The session went ahead despite his attempt to freeze the legislature's operations. *AFP*



What Drives You

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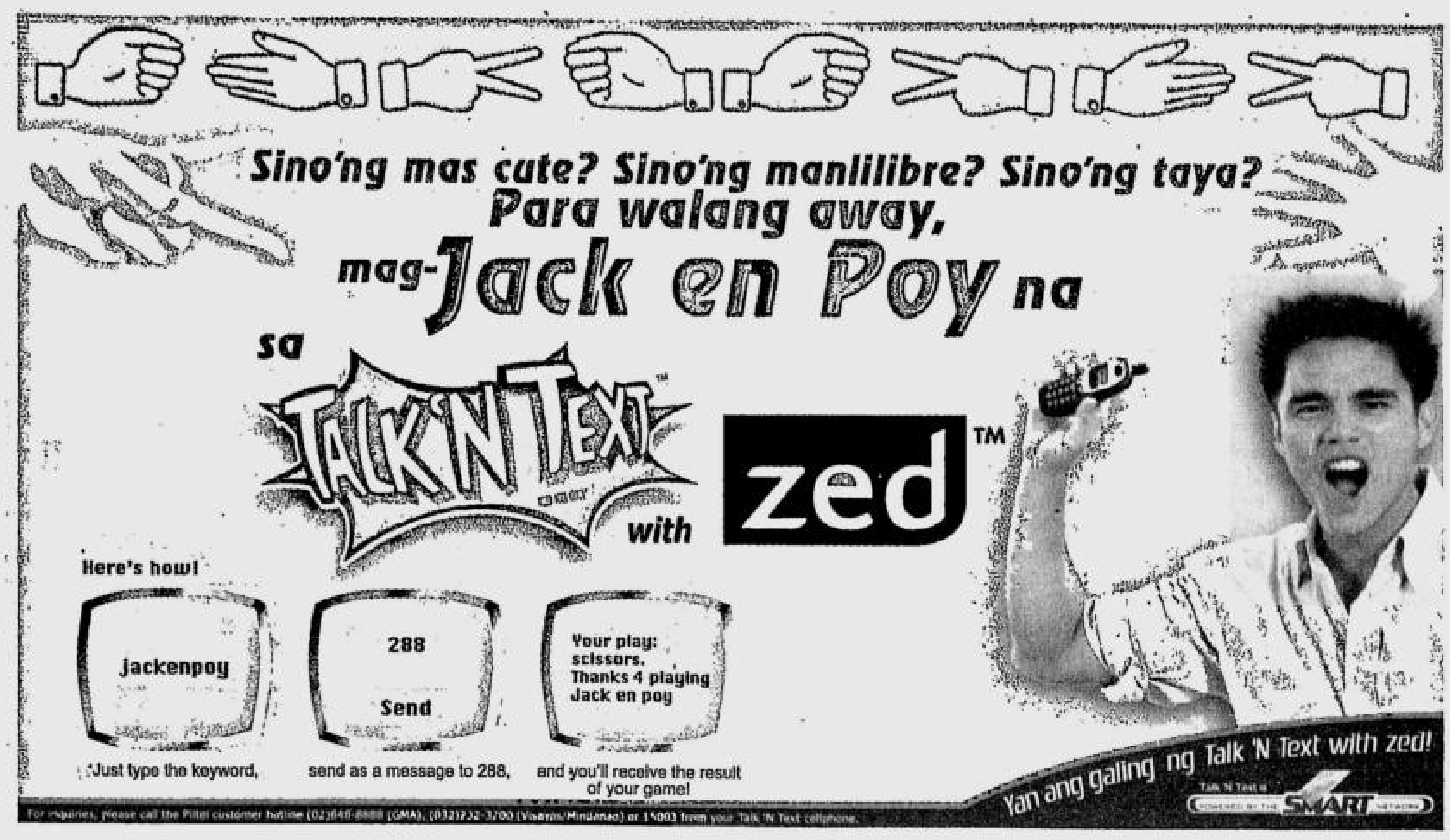
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Breakthrough made in Macedonia talks

OHRID, Macedonia—Macedonia made a big step toward peace on Wednesday when its political leaders made a breakthrough on the key issue of language at talks aimed at ending a six-month ethnic Albanian rebellion and averting another Balkans war.

The breakthrough on making Albanian an official language in the former Yugoslav state came on the fifth day of grueling negotiations, mediated by Western envoys, in this southwestern Macedonian town.

US envoy James Pardew hailed it as a "good deal," saying it permitted Albanian as an official language alongside Macedonian in areas where ethnic Albanians made up at least 20 percent of the population.

Ethnic Albanians make up about a third of Macedonia's two million people. Most live in the north, near the border with Kosovo, and in the west, near Albania.

The provisional agreement also came on the eve of the country's National Day public holiday celebrating the creation of the first Macedonian state.

The negotiations, involving the two main Macedonian parties and the two main ethnic Albanian parties, are to resume Friday.

European Union envoy Francois Leotard said: "I want to use this occasion and this positive news to wish all the citizens of Macedonia a very happy national holiday."

There was no immediate word from ethnic Albanian rebels, whose cooperation will be necessary for any final agreement.

On Tuesday, the rebels' political leader, Ali Ahmeti, said he was "not optimistic at all" about the talks.

There have been regular clashes between rebel and government forces in the north of the country despite a July 5 ceasefire, raising fears the whole country might slip into all-out civil war should the talks fail. *AFP*

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What Drives You CALTEX

Kim entourage in train shows who's in, out

SEOUL—It's like Kremlin-watching in the former Soviet Union: To figure out the power hierarchy in North Korea, scrutinize official photos and television footage to see who's standing where on the podium.

KIM JONG-IL

But now, it's the train carrying North Korean leader Kim Jong-il to Moscow that's being watched.

There are reportedly 150 people on the train. They include Yon Hyong Muk, former prime minister and a member of the North's most powerful agency, the National Defense Commission; Jon Hui Jong, Kim's chief protocol officer; and Kim Yong Chun, chief of the military's general staff.

Yon headed talks with South Korea that led to a non-aggression agreement in 1991. Inter-Korean tension made the deal little more than symbolic.

Television footage showed Yon and Jon with Kim Jong-il when he met Russian officials shortly after crossing from North Korea into Russia at the beginning of his trip a week ago.

Kim Yong-chun was spotted late Tuesday when Kim Jong-il arrived in the Western Siberian city of Omsk, according to Choi Byung-suk, a video analyst at the South Korean Unification Ministry.

Choi said Kim Yong-chun made a public appearance in Pyongyang one day after the train left for Moscow, so he likely flew in to join the entourage later.

Absent these days is Vice Marshal Jo Myong-rok, a key aide to Kim Jong-il. South Korean officials believe the 71-year-old vice marshal is sick.

The whereabouts of Kim Yong-nam, North Korea's ceremonial head of state, are not publicly known.

Kim Jong-il, who is reputed to hate flying, opted for a 10-day train ride on his third foreign trip as North Korea's leader. His reluctance to go abroad has prompted rumors that he is afraid of a coup if he travels.

If that is the case, most high-ranking North Korean officials who stayed in Pyongyang likely enjoy the trust of their leader.

They include Kim Il-chol, minister of the People's Armed Forces, and Marshal Ri Ul Sol, 80, who sits on the National Defense Commission, which is chaired by Kim Jong-il.

Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun met the departing Czech ambassador on Wednesday in Pyongyang, the North's media reported. *AP*

'Code Red' virus fails to slow down Internet traffic

SAN FRANCISCO—After its first full day on the Internet Wednesday, the Code Red virus had failed to slow down Internet traffic, though officials said it remained active and could still pose a threat.

According to the SANS Institute, a computer security think-tank, barely 150,000 computers were struck by the virus, a fraction of the computers hooked to the Internet.

A spokesperson for the FBI, which is monitoring the virus' progress, said the initial signs of a Code Red dud were "hopeful, but we're keeping a close watch on the situation."

Keynote Systems, a long-time Internet performance monitoring company based in San Mateo, California, said there were no slowdowns in Internet traffic Wednesday or Tuesday, despite government warnings of a Code Red assault.

The company, considered an authority on Internet performance, expressed doubt Wednesday that the Code Red worm virus was ever a threat, saying widespread disruption of the Internet on July 19 attributed to the Code Red virus was in fact due to a train wreck in Baltimore.

That supposed infection by the virus was cited by the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC), an FBI-run organization that fights computer hackers, as the basis for its worldwide alert issued this past weekend.

The virus, categorized as a worm, disrupts the memory capacity of the server computers that pass data along on the Internet.

"On July 19, the Code Red worm infected more than 250,000 systems in just nine hours," the NIPC said in a statement issued over the weekend. "The worm scans the Internet, identifies vulnerable systems, and infects these systems by installing itself."

"Each newly-installed worm joins the others, causing the rate of scanning to increase rapidly. The uncontrolled spreading directly decreases the speed of the Internet and can cause sporadic but widespread outages among all types of systems."

Keynote officials insisted Wednesday that the train accident in Baltimore caused the July 19 Internet slowdown. *AFP*

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Genetic food labels urged

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Marikina Rep. Del de Guzman said here that he has filed a bill requiring the mandatory labeling of genetically modified organism (GMO) food and food products with the following markings: "Genetically Engineered."

The bill proposed a punishment of 12 years in jail or a fine of up to P100,000 for offenders.

"It came to my attention that there are products available in local supermarkets that were sent to Hong Kong for laboratory testing and were found to contain GMOs," said De Guzman.

Early this year, the environmental advocacy group Greenpeace revealed that 11 popular food products had been tested positive for GMO contamination.

In June, a new round of testing found GMOs in Nestle's infant product Cerelac Wheat.

"Since the safety of GMOs has not been established conclusively, I felt it was necessary to pass a law that will require food and food products to be appropriately labeled," De Guzman said.

House Bill No. 1647 or the Genetically Engineered Food Right to Know Act requires the mandatory labeling of "all food and food products containing genetically-modified organisms, as well as those produced by genetic engineering technologies."

Under the proposed bill, violators could be imprisoned for not less than six years but not more than 12 years, or a fine of not less than P50,000 but not more than P100,000, or both at the discretion of the court.

"If the offender is an alien, he shall, after (the) service of sentence, be immediately deported without need of any further proceedings," the bill read.

"I believe the bill will give meaning to the right of our people and even foreigners living in the country to know if what they eat have been modified by modern biotechnology," said De Guzman. "(Consumers ought to) know the contents of the food items they buy and then decide for themselves."

Responding to industry claims that GMO will ensure food security, De Guzman said: "The fact, however, is that global food production is one-and-one-half times more than what is necessary to feed the burgeoning global population. Worse, the promise held out by genetically-engineered food and food products may turn out to be more harmful to human health than their perceived benefits."

Mandatory labeling laws exist in Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, New Zealand, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Norway, Czech Republic, Latvia, Israel, Taiwan, Mexico and 15 countries in the European Union.

"In many of the world's largest food markets such as Europe, Japan, Brazil and North America, supermarkets have cleared genetically engineered food from their shelves, and global food companies have removed genetically engineered ingredients from their products," said Greenpeace. ***Dennis Maliwanag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northwestern Luzon and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy	Hi 23° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/03/01

ROUNDUP

2 killed in jeepney fall

BAGUIO CITY—Two people were killed and nine others were seriously injured Sunday when their jeepney fell into a shallow ravine in Bontoc, Mt. Province. Killed were Rose Navarro and Steve Pocdalen. The injured were taken to the Bontoc General Hospital. Police said the jeepney encountered a mechanical problem while negotiating a curve and fell into a nine-meter ravine at Sitio Acoyo in Barangay Samoki.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Fire hits public market

BAMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya—A fire of unknown origin burned part of the public market in Barangay Calaocan here on Tuesday, police said. No one was reported hurt, but damage to property was placed at P20 million. Mayor Pepito Balgos said he had yet to meet vendors whose stalls were destroyed by the fire. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

New hospital center

DAVAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo will lead cornerstone-laying rites on Aug. 9 for the P646-million Outpatient and Preventive Care Center of the Davao Medical Center (DMC) here. Dr. Gerardo Cunanan, DMC chief, said the facility was a donation of the Japanese government for people in Mindanao through the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The four-story building will house all outpatient clinics and facilities.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Poster-making contest

DAVAO CITY—The Population Commission here launched its national poster-making contest for Filipinos aged 6 to 25. Entries should focus on the theme "Population, Development and Environment." The contest has five categories: I for 6-8 years old; II for 8-12 years old; III for 13-15 years old; IV for 16-18 years old; and V for 19-25 years old. Dr. Ignacio Arat, Popcom regional director, said entries should be submitted to the Popcom-Region 11 office at the Davao Medical Center Compound in Bajada District. Deadline for submission is Aug. 17.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Pangapog fest starts today

DAVAO CITY—The Island Garden City of Samal will celebrate its third Pangapog Festival today up to Aug. 5. Pangapog is the Sama tribe's thanksgiving festival to their *Magbabaya* (God) for a bountiful harvest. The Sama cultural showcase and agro-industrial fair have been organized to boost the celebration. The city adopted the festival to promote the cultural heritage of the island as a viable tourism adventure destination in the Southern Philippines. The activities included a fluvial parade and a sand sculpture competition.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Child welfare program

DUMAGUETE CITY—More than 100 local officials from Negros Oriental's two cities and 11 towns have pledged support to the 5th Country Program for Children (CPC-V) of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef). In a recent meeting, they vowed to provide counterpart funds to promote children's welfare and protection in their localities. Jenny Catan-Tilos, a CPC-V Provincial Task Force member, said the commitment was sought after police records showed that many children have suffered from abuse in the province. The Unicef has pledged $1 million to fund the four-year program.

Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Shooting suspects charged

KALIBO, Aklan—The Boracay Police Assistance Center filed frustrated murder charges against two suspects in Tuesday's shooting of a village official on Boracay Island. Charged before the provincial prosecutor's office were Francis Dalisay and Rodel Magsipoc. The two allegedly shot Nestor Pelayo, councilor of Barangay Manoc-manoc, about 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, during an altercation. Pelayo suffered a single bullet wound in the chest and was recuperating at the St. Jude Hospital in Kalibo.

Odon Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau

Woman killed in crossfire

CAMP GUILLERMO NAKAR, Lucena City—A pregnant woman was killed while his son was wounded when they were caught in a crossfire between seven communist rebels and soldiers late Tuesday afternoon in Rizal, Laguna. Killed during the 30-minute clash was Merly Ibanez, who was reportedly seven months pregnant. Her 5-year-old son, Christian, suffered bullet wounds in different parts of the body and is now in critical condition. A report to the Southern Luzon Command here said the rebels were chanced upon by soldiers of the 4th Special Forces Battalion based in Magdalena, Laguna, while on combat patrol in the area.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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5 suspects in boy's kidnapping plead innocent

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Five men pleaded not guilty to charges that they took part in the July 23 kidnapping of an 11-year-old son of a Chinese-Filipino trader here.

The five entered their not guilty plea during the arraignment of the kidnapping charges against them early yesterday before Judge Pampio Abarintos of the Regional Trial Court Branch 22.

The five were Roberto Galope, 48; Jovencio Camado, 30; Edgar Manimog, 26 and Efren Hernandez, 39 and his brother Henry, 33.

The pre-trial conference and the trial proper have been set on Sept. 3, 7, 11, 12 and 14.

Salvador Solima, legal counsel of the accused, sought a marathon hearing because kidnapping, being a heinous crime, is covered by the Speedy Trial Act.

This law mandates that the trial of heinous cases should be completed in 90 days.

Solima told the INQUIRER that his clients pleaded not guilty because they had nothing to do with the kidnapping of Ryan James Yu in Peace Valley, Barangay Lahug.

Torture

He said his clients' earlier admission of the crime was made only after they were tortured during tactical interrogation in Davao City.

The five accused were arrested at the Davao International Airport about 4 p.m. on July 26 after they allegedly received P1.5 million in ransom from undercover policemen.

But about 7 a.m. that day, police in Cebu recovered the boy from an apartment in Barangay Lahug, about a kilometer from the site where he was kidnapped.

The boy's keepers abandoned Yu after they noticed that policemen were conducting a stakeout in the area.

Police officials in Cebu claimed that the five men arrested in Davao had "confessed" to their involvement in the kidnapping during tactical interrogation.

But Galope said the confession was made after they were tortured inside a warehouse in Davao for six hours—from 8 p.m. of July 25 to 2 a.m. of July 26.

Wired

He claimed that he was repeatedly punched while his head and genitals were attached to wires that were attached to a 12-volt car battery. His nails were clipped with pliers.

"They wrapped my head (with cellophane), put pepper in my eyes, then poured water in my ears, wrapped my face with a rug then poured water on me," Galope said in Cebuano.

The five were examined on Wednesday by doctors of the city government-run Cebu City Medical Center on orders of the court.

Judge Abarintos ordered the doctors to submit results of the medical examination in five days.

Solima had already asked the Commission on Human Rights in Central Visayas to look into the allegation of his clients.

Alejandro Alonso, CHR Central Visayas director, however, said before his office starts the investigation, he wants an assurance from Solima that his clients will not retract their statements.

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Investors keep arm's length from RP agriculture

By Peter La. Julian
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BACNOTAN, La Union—What's the problem with quality Philippine products like the Ilocos *longganiza* (meat sausage), honey and vinegar?

They have become globally competitive, but these are not produced in great quantities for the export market due to lack of investors, agricultural experts here said.

Dr. Saturnino Ocampo, president of the Mariano Marcos State University in Batac, Ilocos Norte, said agricultural products are available in some parts of the country and even abroad but local demand has yet to be cultivated to create an impact on the economy.

Ocampo, whose university is part of the Ilocos Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium (Ilarrdec) based in Batac, said while research and development is moving at a faster rate in state colleges and universities, natural calamities have set back efforts to modernize agriculture in the country.

He spoke during the 13th regional symposium of the Ilarrdec at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University here on Friday.

The Ilarrdec, composed of public and private institutions, is one of the country's 14 research and development agencies specializing in countryside research and development.

Ocampo said the Ilocos has started promoting crop biotechnology and selling biotechnology products, but there is still a need to create a market for these.

Crop biotechnology can potentially make a great impact on agriculture in developing countries like the Philippines, he said.

But due to lack of information, non-government organizations are hindering its application, particularly in Ilocos Norte, where trial sites have been identified, he said.

Jovita Corpuz, deputy director of the Manila-based Bureau of Agricultural Research, said the problems bugging the agriculture sector are a "confluence of many factors" such as the country's fiscal policies and the fluctuating value of the peso against the dollar.

She said money problems have hounded the implementation of the Agricultural and Fishery Modernization Act to where billions of pesos have been appropriated.

But as required by law, Afma's implementing rules and regulations, implemented in 1998, will be reviewed after five years to see if these are still applicable, she said.

She also said the Filipino preference for foreign products, which, she noted, are usually cheap and of high quality, is a great problem and has to be addressed.

Corpuz cited studies by the country's social economists that a major problem of farmers willing to adopt the modern technology is the non-availability of agricultural inputs.

"We may have developed the technology of producing quality rice and hybrid corn and other high-value crops like mango, but certified seeds and quality planting materials are not readily available to farmers," she said.

In the case of milk, which the country can produce profitably instead of importing it, Corpuz said it is "next to impossible" to have the acquired number of lactating cows or carabaos at a given time and in one place where a factory could be put for milk processing.

"At least 4,000 of these animals are needed at a milk plant site," she said.

She said technology transfer that is much needed in the countryside is hindered because of little or no support from local governments.

Dr. Rodolfo Asanion, president of the Pangasinan State University, said farmers are hesitant to adopt modern technology because of the lack of an effective marketing system for their produce.

"Farmers are not sure of the market so you don't expect them to plant crops using methods that would give them a high return of investment," he said.

The entry of cheap imported products like grapes and oranges and even onion and garlic has also discouraged farmers to grow the crops, he said.

C. Luzon posts hike in tax take

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Tax collections dropped in Tarlac and Bataan starting April but overall revenue in Central Luzon between January and June, at P2.5 billion, slightly surpassed the regional tax collection target.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, in figures released Tuesday, said its collections for six months in Tarlac, Olongapo and Cabanatuan cities, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Bataan, Pampanga and Baler in Aurora were 7.44 percent higher than its goal of P2.329 billion for the same period.

No reasons were cited for the plunge in Tarlac and Bataan, at P16.8 million and P39.35 million, respectively.

Antonio Montemayor, BIR regional director, said these provinces usually post a decline between April and May, a trend now being studied.

The SBMA, the government owned corporation managing the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, reported a 30.07-percent increase or P438.9 million against the P337-million target in the converted American military base.

Pampanga, which hosts the Clark Special Economic Zone, another former military facility, and several other industrial hubs, continue to be the biggest revenue-earners. They drew P947.9 million or 14.31 percent higher than their goal of P829 million.

By source, income taxes, at P1.768 billion, still comprised the bulk of revenue in the regional district that excludes Bulacan.

Value-added taxes and percentage taxes generated P516.6 million and P101.3 million, respectively, in revenues.

Preliminary figures gathered by the BIR showed that excise taxes contributed P1.4 million during the first six months. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Killers of 4 rebs convicted, but not jailed

DAVAO CITY—The perpetrators of the Mawab massacre in Compostela Valley have yet to serve their sentences two years after they were found guilty of the massacre by the Regional Trial Court Branch 3 in the province.

Joel Virador, secretary general of Karapatan Alliance of Human Rights (Karapatan), said warrants of arrests have been served three times already against the three military personnel and two military "assets" but they have yet to spend a day in prison.

"The last time they were served warrants was (on) July 31," Virador said.

He said he feared that there could be a deliberate attempt from some military officials to delay the execution of the sentence against Sgt. Marcial Colot, Sgt. Ernesto Abad and Cpl. Fernando Alegame.

The soldiers belong to the 701st Brigade in Davao del Norte.

Their co-accused Lt. Rolando Catiil, Capt. Francisco Madayag and Lt. Col. Herbert Avinante and civilian informers Jerry Tupas and Domiñano Sevilla were absolved of any criminal liability.

However, the Office of the Ombudsman in Mindanao found the military officers administratively liable for the actions of their subordinates.

On Aug. 2, 1999, around 3:30 p.m., Godofredo Guimbaolibot, Rolando Jubahib, engineer Edwin Asion and Mariano Diamante were arrested by the convicted soldiers led by Madayag on suspicion that they were members of the New People's Army.

The soldiers later turned over the four to the police dead.

An autopsy performed on their remains showed that they died of gunshot wounds.

In a press statement, the Guimbaolibot, Jubahib, Asion, and Diamante families, said they are "slowly becoming exasperated (with) the (slow pace) of our country's justice system."

They urged the Macapagal administration to exert its political will and wield "its civilian authority over the military so that justice may be served in the name of the Mawab four martyrs." ***Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

LIFE'S LESSONS DENNIS SABANGAN

Bomb explosions, gunfire, killings won't stop the learning process for these Muslim children in a school in Basilan that teaches them lessons on Islamic doctrines.

ILLEGAL ARREST?

Rebel leader in mayor's murder nabbed

BAGUIO CITY—The Army claimed to have captured the main suspect in the murder of Mayor Teodoro Hernaez of Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur in April this year.

A report released on Wednesday by Maj. Elmer Quiros, commander of the Army's civil relations group for the Ilocos Region, said Joselito Baleva, suspected to be a New People's Army leader, was captured in Barangay Baluarte in Salcedo, Ilocos Sur on July 18.

But reports here disputed the supposed links of Baleva to the NPA.

The alternative law center Dinteg here and the Ilocos Human Rights Organization said Baleva, a community organizer, is a consultant of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

They said Baleva was assigned to monitor Singson's development projects in farming communities in Ilocos Sur.

Baleva posted bail on July 24 for illegal possession of firearms charges.

Quiros said Baleva, also known as "Ka Jun Jun," was among the NPA members who stayed in Salcedo after members of the Army's 17th Infantry Battalion overran an NPA camp there on July 15.

"(Baleva) fired at the pursuing troops while retreating but was captured by the blocking troops along a creek," a military report said.

Seized from Baleva were an Armalite rifle and a bag containing anti-government documents.

Charges of homicide and rebellion were filed against Baleva, who was identified in the military report as a graduate of the University of the Philippines.

The report quoted Col. Rocardi Nobleza, commanding officer of the 503rd infantry brigade based in Tayum, Abra, as saying that Baleva was responsible for the murder of Hernaez and his three aides on April 18 while Hernaez was campaigning in Barangay Namatican in Sta. Lucia.

The NPA unit operating in southern Ilocos Sur later claimed responsibility for Hernaez's murder, claiming that the 72-year-old mayor was corrupt and a land-grabber.

Hernaez's doctor-son, Ferdinand, replaced his father in the mayoral race and won.

Beverly Longid, Dinteg executive director, said Baleva was arrested illegally and the evidence against him was planted.

"The arrest of Baleva was illegal and arbitrary. He was arrested without any warrant on July 18 and he was formally charged with illegal possession of firearms on July 19," Longid said.

"We denounce this continuing practice of the military of planting evidence against innocent civilians suspected to be members and supporters of the NPA," she said.

Longid, quoting Baleva's wife, Dr. Angelica Baleva, said Baleva failed to return home on July 19 from Salcedo where he was monitoring Singson's socio-economic projects in the town.

Longid said Singson and Baleva's family found him in Camp Elpidio Quirino in Bantay on July 22. ***Frank Cimatu and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Palace calls Nur on MNLF, autonomous region plebiscite

COTABATO CITY—After making so much noise on his stand to reject the holding of the Aug. 14 plebiscite and his leadership struggle in the seemingly divided Moro National Liberation Front, Nur Misuari has been summoned to Malacañang for an urgent meeting on Friday.

Misuari, MNLF chair and governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said he has to postpone his series of consultations with ranking MNLF leaders in Mindanao to give in to the Palace invitation.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and House Speaker Jose de Venecia "wanted to meet with me in Malacañang. I do not know what exactly (is) the issue they want to discuss with me . . . but I think it is the issue of the Aug. 14 referendum that we in the MNLF had earlier rejected," Misuari, who claims majority control of the MNLF, said.

Lately, Misuari has been denouncing the government's "unilateral plan" of holding a plebiscite for an expanded ARMM, saying the move was contrary to the resolutions passed by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers last year and in 1997.

The Organization of Islamic Conference was a major factor in the signing of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF.

But Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema said the plebiscite is "in accordance with the 1996 peace agreement."

As this developed, top leaders of the MNLF and MILF sat down starting Wednesday to officially discuss the reunification of the two forces fuelling suspicions that Misuari would be left alone in his opposition to the plebiscite.

In Digos City, city election registrar Francisca Martin said she was dismayed at the cool reception by some officials here on her proposal for them to help in the information drive on the plebiscite.

"They might have feared that their participation in the information drive could (have a) backlash on their political careers," Martin said.

During previous attempts to expand the autonomous region, about 90 percent of residents here voted against it.

In Isabela City in Basilan, Mayor Luis Biel II expressed confidence that majority of the resident would overwhelmingly vote against the inclusion of their city in the proposed expansion of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Biel met with barangay chairmen on Tuesday where a unanimous decision to reject the expansion prevailed.

Isabela is among the 14 cities and 15 provinces where residents will vote on Aug. 14.

"Like in the previous plebiscite, our people will once again vote and say no to ARMM," Biel confidently said.

At present, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is composed of the provinces of Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Norte and Maguindanao. ***Charlie Señase, Edwin Fernandez, Jonathan Ma, Allan Nawal and Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

IT'S a show of strength for Nur Misuari, MNLF chair and ARMM governor. Misuari succeeds in bringing to his side Notre Dame University president Fr, Eliseo Mercado Jr., MNLF state chair Dima Ambil and Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan. They agreed to uphold the "culture of cooperation, coordination and collaboration" in Muslim Mindanao during a recent Davao City meeting. CHARLIE SEÑASE

Malnutrition hounding Pinoy kids

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—A high percentage of Filipino children are afflicted with various forms of malnutrition such as deficiency in protein-energy, Vitamin A, iodine and iron, officials said.

Quoting a 1998 survey, Maria Bernardita Flores, deputy executive director of the National Nutrition Council, said 31.8 percent of the children are underweight, 32 percent stunted, and 6.6 percent wasted.

The 1998 survey is the latest on the nutritional status of Filipinos. A new survey is scheduled next month.

In Ilocos Region, 36.02 percent of the residents are underweight, 26.7 percent stunted, and 7.8 percent wasted.

Underweight means a person's weight is below the established standard weight for his age and sex while stunted is the state of being short for one's age as a result of lack of food intake.

Wasted

Wasted is the active form of malnutrition characterized by low weight for height because of deficiencies in both muscle and fat mass.

Flores said Vitamin A deficiency is also widespread in the country.

"Among six months to five-year-old Filipino children, 38 percent of them are Vitamin A deficient while in (the Ilocos Region), 25.9 percent of the children lack Vitamin A," she said.

Iron deficiency is another concern in the country since 36 percent of children aged 6-12 have moderate to severe iodine deficiency.

"The most visible consequence of iodine deficiency is goiter, but the most serious one is cretinism characterized by mental retardation, reduced IQ, deaf-mutism, growth retardation, and defects of (the) neuro-muscular system," she said.

Anemia

Anemia, caused by lack of iron, has affected almost a third of the population. It is common among babies, pregnant and lactating, children and adults 60 years old and above.

"The consequences of anemia include fatigue, low productivity and apathy among adults. Among children, anemia results in poor cognitive development and eventually poor academic performance," Flores said.

Gov. Victor Agbayani said the provincial government has been implementing Oplan Dagdag Timbang since 1999.

A report of the Pangasinan Nutrition Council showed that the malnutrition prevalence rate in the province was reduced from 7.06 percent in 1999 to 5.17 percent in 2001 or a 1.9 percent decrease. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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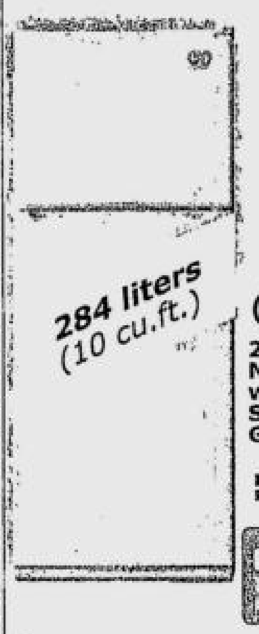

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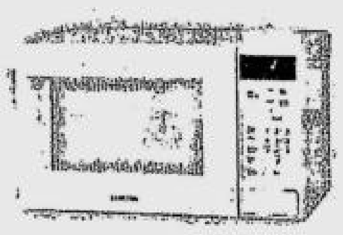

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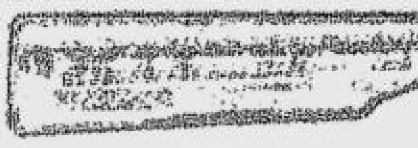

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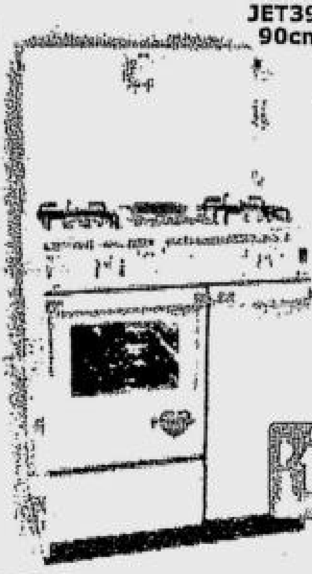

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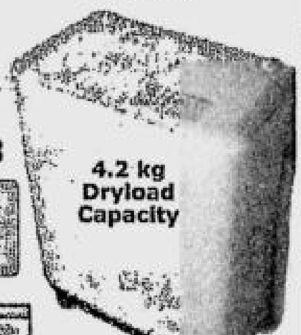

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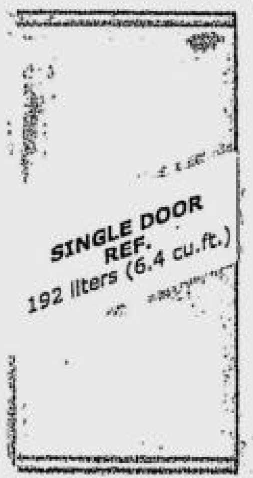

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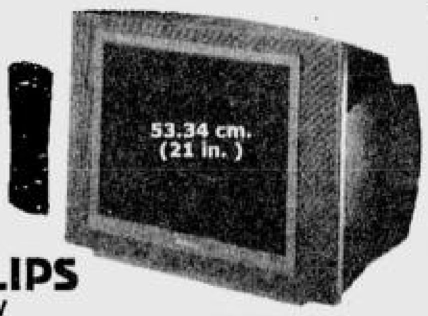

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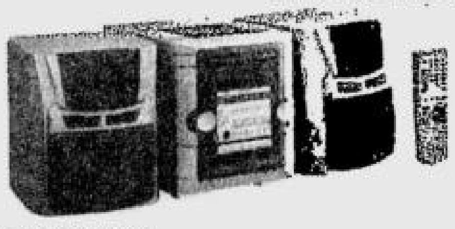

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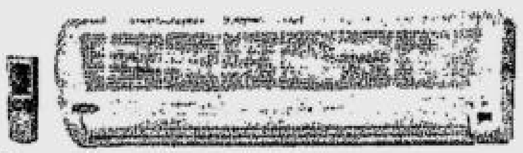

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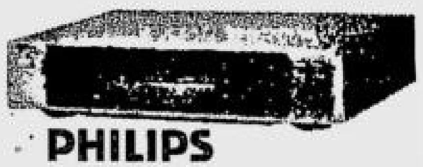

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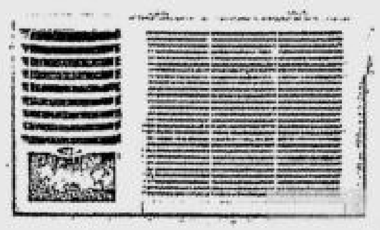

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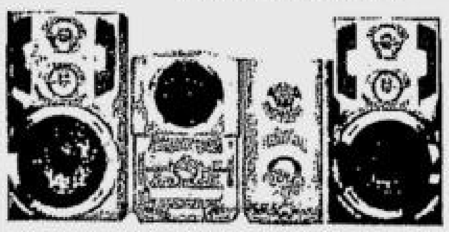

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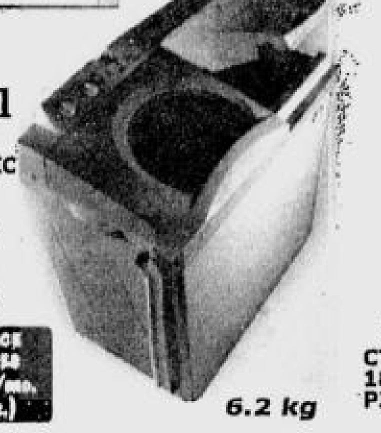

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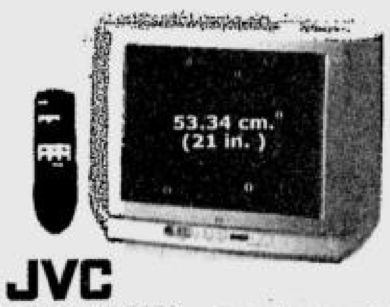

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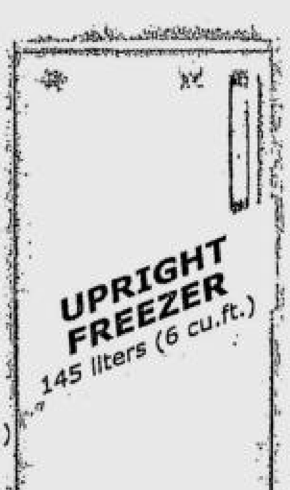

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Corazon de la Paz: Woman on top of SSS

(From page A1)

experience as an auditor and management consultant," he said.

Malacañang's replacement of Nañagas, which was worked out by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, is widely seen as bowing to pressure from SSS senior management and rank-and-file employees, who had criticized Nañagas for his supposed "poor management style."

Even De la Paz, a recently retired chair of PriceWaterhouseCoopers in the country, had voiced concern that the government's move to take Nañagas out of SSS might set a precedent for other state agencies.

"If they can do that to him, they can also do that to me," she said.

Nañagas was named chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines, in place of Ernest Leung who will reportedly be transferred to the Trade and Investment Development Corp. following the retirement of its head, Victor Macalincag.

Dangerous signal

Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club (MBC), said the government sent a dangerous signal when it yielded to the "questionable and baseless" demands of the SSS employees and executives and replaced a reformer like Nañagas.

Camacho, however, stressed that the problems of the SSS were unique and that Nañagas' replacement should not be viewed as "precedent-setting."

He said that Nañagas' management style had clashed with the SSS bureaucracy, and that he was confident De la Paz would not encounter the same situation.

He also said the priority of the Macapagal administration was to ensure the seamless operations of the SSS, which manages the pension fund of 23 million members.

SSS workers, backed by its executives, had paralyzed operations for the past three days. They had been engaged in protest actions since May—initially over the planned privatization of the agency and later over Nañagas' management style.

Investigation

Tiglao said the President was thanking Nañagas for the reforms that he had undertaken in the SSS.

He said the President had directed Camacho and De la Paz to pursue the investigation of top SSS executives believed involved in the "behest" portfolio investments made during the administration of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Nañagas had earlier commissioned an independent audit and submitted a report to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission naming those involved in the questionable investments as SSS executive vice president Horace Templo, senior vice president Edgar Solilapsi, and institutional loans head Lilia Marquez.

"(The President) emphasized that those against whom sufficient evidence have been gathered should immediately be put under administrative suspension while the investigation is being undertaken," Tiglao said.

Camacho expressed the belief that De la Paz would continue the reforms Nañagas had initiated and would pursue the investigation of the implicated executives.

He said the audit report submitted by Nañagas had detailed the questionable investments made by the SSS, particularly on the merger of Equitable Bank and PCIBank and the purchase of Belle Corp. shares.

RED ribbons set on fire by SSS employees who end their strike and celebrate their victory. EDWIN BACASMAS

LIKE a New Year's Eve celebration for masked SSS employees in Baguio City. EV ESPIRITU

SSS insiders said it was not only the audit that sparked the beginning of the end for Nañagas. They said he drew the ire of the agency's senior management when he questioned the "atrocious salaries" that most of the executives were receiving.

An SSS insider said 48 senior officials in the agency were earning more than P100,000 a month, and that Nañagas' basic pay of P150,000 was less than half of the P350,000 that Templo was getting.

Another source said the executive secretary that Nañagas had inherited from his predecessor, Carlos Arellano III, was drawing the same monthly salary as Nañagas.

Silence

The MBC's Luz said Templo and Solilapsi, along with other senior officials, were "unusually silent when SSS funds were involved in the behest investments of the former President."

"I find it odd that they were actively protesting against Nañagas who did not steal money, had no anomalous transactions, no allegations of wrongdoing. They just questioned his management style," Luz said.

Luz also criticized the SSS rank and file for protesting against Nañagas when he had committed no violations or engaged in any unfair labor practice.

An Estrada appointee is said to be responsible for agitating the rank-and-file employees and convincing Templo and Solilapsi to withdraw support from Nañagas.

Camacho said the Civil Service Commission (CSC) might impose sanctions—ranging from a reprimand to dismissal—on SSS employees who joined the protest actions and helped paralyze operations nationwide.

But a highly placed source said part of Camacho's "peace formula" was that no striking employee would be sanctioned provided he or she would readily report for work.

Newly appointed SSS chair Bernardino Abes said that the employees had returned to work and that operations had normalized.

Asked if the government would slap sanctions on SSS workers who had joined the protest actions, Tiglao said they would not be punished unless cases were filed against them.

"You can't just take people out. If there are administrative charges, they should be properly filed," he said.

'Bigger issue'

Despite the jubilant mood at the SSS central office in Quezon City, Paul Mijares, Access vice president for internal affairs, said Malacañang only resolved "one-fourth" of the problem when it replaced Nañagas.

"The bigger issue here is the privatization of the SSS. Our actions over the past two months that culminated in the ouster of Nañagas should send a strong signal to Malacañang that we will not take the privatization issue lightly," Mijares told the INQUIRER.

"We thank Malacañang, though, that after 74 days, it finally heard our demand. But what is lamentable is the fact that we had to paralyze operations before it listened to us," he added.

Operations at the SSS central office started to normalize at 1 p.m. yesterday, after the protesters held a thanksgiving Mass.

The militant groups that supported the protesting employees also lauded Malacañang's replacement of Nañagas. But they warned of bigger protest actions if the government continued to push the privatization of various state institutions.

"Unless the government addresses the issue of privatization squarely, it can expect bigger protest actions from government employees," said Ferdinand Gaite of Courage.

Gaite said the primary destabilizer of the Macapagal administration was its inability to address the basic problems like poverty, joblessness and corruption.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan also said Nañagas' removal did not put an end to the problems at the SSS.

"We hope this is not just damage control on the part of Malacañang," Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said.

"We heard that De la Paz is very close to Nañagas, and so we cannot expect that her administration will not carry on what he started."

Kilusang Mayo Uno spokesperson Sammy Malunes said Malacañang had yet to make a clear statement that it had junked its plan to privatize the SSS.

"It is expected that whoever is the government's choice to replace Nañagas will abide with the prescriptions of privatization and the impositions of foreign multilateral financial agencies like the IMF-World Bank and Asian Development Bank," Malunes said.

A similar sentiment was voiced by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chaired by Rafael Mariano.

In Lucena City, Renato Magtubo, chair of the militant labor group Partido ng Manggagawa, said: "Nañagas is out. But the cleansing process has just begun. The government must seize the moment and implement thorough and meaningful reforms in the SSS."

'For sale'

In Baguio, a Courage coordinator told the INQUIRER that the President "appears to be enforcing the privatization plans of the Estrada administration."

"About 100 agencies, schools and government-controlled corporations are lined up for sale to (address the government's budget deficit)," the coordinator said in Filipino, adding:

"In fact, the union at the Bureau of Internal Revenue will probably react to the ongoing reforms of (Commissioner René Bañez). The National Food Authority managed to seal a provision through its collective negotiating agreement (CNA) allowing the union president to continue strengthening NFA unions all over the country. That's how formidable the NFA has become."

The CNA is the government equivalent of the union-led collective bargaining agreement in private corporations.

But SSS employees in Baguio said they knew that the Macapagal administration had become wary in the face of their "success."

"I think the government is fearful. I think it is scared of (government employees now). But maybe they should be worried, maybe they should be listening to our minor heartaches," said Dr. Gertrude Dominguez, SSS resident physician, who marshaled the walkouts this week.

"In fact, we did not reap the real fruit of our crusade," said Amy Ocampo, an SSS employee and the official Access representative in Baguio. "We were always against the privatization of the SSS. Maybe the media mistook our anger at Nañagas' management style. But it is still privatization we are fighting, and (this is the common problem) of most government agencies today."

Dominguez said the President should be concerned about a string of government agency strikes in the near future, "because the SSS victory needed one basic ingredient—the support of middle and executive management."

"If not for the middle and top-level management who ordered the shutdown of offices, who allowed us to rally, this would not be possible. We would be out in the cold," Ocampo said.

"What other unions should do is study very carefully the merits of (the reforms) being imposed by the government, so they can be united against (wrong measures). That's the key to becoming truly solid. This was the failure of the National Power Corp. unions. They were not united," Dominguez said.

'Thank you'

In Davao City, Access' Matuco said all SSS employees were back at work and happy that the President had given in to their demand.

"Our (protests are) finished. We are happy that no untoward (incident) happened. We can only say thank you to all SSS members for their understanding. What is important is that Nañagas was finally replaced," he said.

Matuco said, however, that they would still ask the government not to push through with the privatization of the SSS.

Lawyer Eddie Jara, SSS executive vice president for Southern Mindanao said: "We are relieved. It's anybody but Nañagas."

Jara said he was confident that SSS employees could work harmoniously with De la Paz.

"Now is the time for healing and refocusing our attention on our operations," he said, adding that there was a standing directive for employees to work on Saturdays and Sundays to catch up on paperwork.

In Davao del Sur, Lito de Leon said that SSS operations were back to normal and that employees would be working extra hours.

But SSS members whose claims were pending said they were more relieved than anyone else.

"I am thankful that it's over," a businessman said.

In the cities of Iloilo and Bacolod, SSS operations returned to normal following reports that Nañagas had been replaced.

"We are happy that our demands have been granted and we will give our full support to the new SSS president and CEO," Raul Casiano, SSS Iloilo branch manager, told the INQUIRER. ***With reports from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Ayan C. Mellejor and Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Carla P. Gomez and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

De la Paz refused 7 . . .

(From page A1)

offered De la Paz seven positions, including the top posts at the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Energy, under which her late husband Wenceslao de la Paz served as chair of the National Power Corp. in 1992.

Once, De la Paz was asked by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo how many times she had refused a full-time government job. She could not recall the number of offers she had spurned starting from the term of President Corazon Aquino.

Two weeks ago, the President appointed De la Paz vice chair of the Governance Advisory Council—a post that she said she preferred over the SSS presidency but unfortunately had to give up.

"They told me it was easier to replace me there than in finding somebody else for the SSS," the mother of one told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The former chair and senior partner of Joaquin Cunanan & Co./Price WaterhouseCoopers said it was Presidential Management Staff chief Vicky Garchitorena who convinced her to take up the post.

She said the call came after a meeting among the President, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, and Secretary Romulo.

"They caught me at my weakest point, when I was starting to become concerned about needing to restore credibility and good governance in the system," she said.

Audit expertise

De la Paz said she would use her audit expertise in identifying the problems in the SSS and finding solutions. She and her predecessor, Vitaliano Nañagas II, are close friends, and she said she would pursue the reforms that he had initiated.

But perhaps, she said, she would employ a more relaxed style of management.

De la Paz said she led by example and would tend to prove to her staff that she could work as hard as they, if not harder.

"It's all work with me. I don't have any ill will. If some people get hurt, I will try to explain my decision," she said in Taglish.

She said she was a simple person who normally had her meals at the office canteen unless she had to dine formally with a client.

But her friendly stance should not be abused by her staff and subordinates, she said.

De la Paz said that at the SSS, those who were implicated in the "behest" transactions during the previous administration must face their sanctions if indeed they were found guilty.

Asked whether she would enlist the support of SSS executive vice president Horace Templo and senior vice president Edgar Solilapsi, she said: "Only to the extent that the law will allow them to help me."

The two senior officials are among those named in the audit report commissioned by Nañagas.

"If they need to be penalized, then they must face the sanctions," she said.

Moving ahead

At this point, De la Paz said, she was more interested in moving ahead than in looking back.

She said that at her first meeting with the SSS employees today or next week, she would ask for their help and cooperation.

"I will tell them that I need their help, and that we must work together to improve the operations of the SSS for the benefit of its 23 million members," she said.

De la Paz was a member of the Ad Hoc and Independent Citizen's Committee that investigated the Philippine Centennial project of the Ramos administration.

She was also a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission-appointed interim receiver of the Urban Corp Investments Inc., and of the National Commission on Women.

At 40, she became the first woman chair of Joaquin Cunanan & Co.

De la Paz's husband died of cancer in 1995. They have a daughter, Cristy, a literature student at the University of Maine. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Tina Arceo- Dumlao***

Malacañang yielded to mob rule, says solon

(From page A1)

seeking an inquiry into the matter.

"We must find out what triggered the demonstrations that led to Mr. Nanagas' removal from office," he said, adding that the inquiry would also involve the operations and programs of the SSS and how it could more effectively serve the needs of its members.

Osmeña told reporters that "the most disturbing aspect" of Nañagas' removal following the protest actions of SSS employees was mob rule.

"What is happening to the government?" he said. "Government policy is now subject to veto by the mob."

Osmeña said that SSS employees had been "egged on" by leftist groups to stage the protest actions.

"If I were in (the Palace's) place, I would not have given way. I would have called in the fire trucks and the police and I would have broken up the demonstrations," he said.

The "best" solution, according to Osmeña, is for the Palace to "impose discipline, and whoever doesn't come back to work should be fired."

Nevertheless, Osmeña said, Nañagas' replacement Corazon de la Paz was equally capable of handling the SSS. But he noted that she might end up fearful of not giving in to demands of SSS employees.

Villar said Malacañang's move to appoint De la Paz as SSS president was good, but that he did not find the reasons for replacing Nañagas as good.

He said he believed the Palace might have been pressured into removing Nañagas to prevent the controversy from blowing up.

To the defense

But Senate President Franklin Drilon came to Malacañang's defense, saying that it was merely taking the public interest to heart.

He said the protest actions had "impaired" SSS services, and Malacañang had to take action.

"They had a problem in the organization. It had to be acted upon. Otherwise, public service could suffer," he said.

Drilon also pointed out that Nañagas' integrity and capability were not in question in the controversy, but he noted that the ex-SSS chief might have had a problem in relating with the rank and file there.

Both Villar and Sen. Joker Arroyo are wary about moves to privatize the SSS.

Villar said the SSS was not prepared to privatize at this time, and noted that the country had not been all that successful in its privatization efforts.

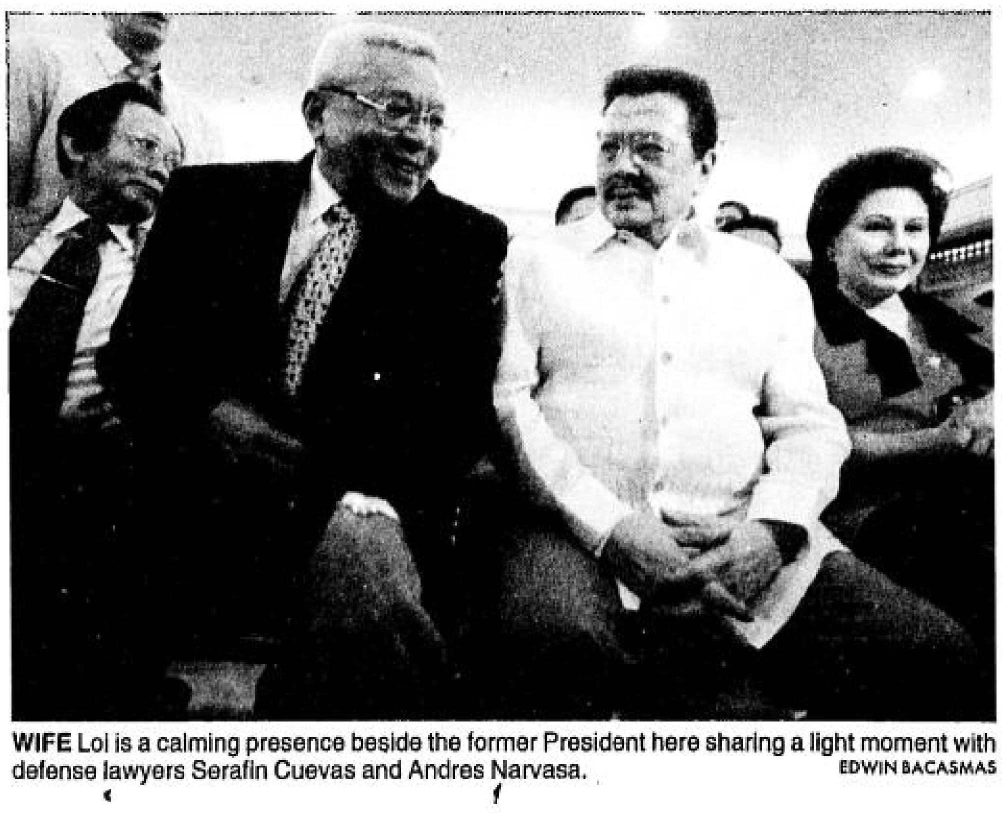
Arroyo said the SSS should be overhauled to allow its members to have more influence on how it was being run.

"SSS members have no say at all on what's happening (there). They should be asked if they want the SSS to be privatized," he added.

Osmeña said he was for SSS privatization because "people contributing money to the SSS are employees of the private sector."

He said SSS employees did not want privatization because this would mean giving up their "fat salaries."

"I think it's for the benefit of SSS employees that it be privatized so it will be isolated from political pressure," Osmeña said.



WIFE Loi is a calming presence beside the former President here sharing a light moment with defense lawyers Serafin Cuevas and Andres Narvasa. EDWIN BACASMAS

A LEANER Mr. Estrada strides into the courtroom with his lawyers. VAL HANDUMON

TIGHT security measures at the Sandiganbayan for the pre-trial hearing of ex-President Estrada includes a bomb-sniffing dog. EDWIN BACASMAS

Mike to have own spokesperson

THE FIRST family is a happy family as they leave the arrival area. ROGER MARGALLO

(From page A1)

"Give us a break; it's our anniversary today."

President Macapagal, son and Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo and daughter Luli welcomed the First Gentleman at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Ready

In another morning interview with radio station dzBB, Arroyo reiterated his denial that he had accepted a large bribe to help Philippine Communication Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) reinstate a franchise earlier granted by Congress but vetoed by the President in April.

"I'm ready to face any investigation," he said. The Ombudsman is conducting a preliminary inquiry to determine if public officials were questionably involved in the granting of the franchises.

In the same program, Arroyo also discussed other allegations against him, including charges that he used his influence to get his friends posts at the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and other agencies.

He said all the appointments were screened by search committees, and he denied any wrongdoing.

Arroyo, 55, also talked about his US trip, medical problems and his 33rd wedding anniversary, which he said he and the President plan to celebrate with a simple family dinner.

Rodrigo on Tuesday said that her information was merely hearsay.

Asked about Rodrigo's retraction, the President said: "I'm glad she issued that clarification already." She reiterated that she hoped the issue would die down.

The President has stressed that the vetoes are in place despite the alleged bribery attempt. Only Congress can override a veto.

House probe

The opposition bloc in the Senate earlier planned to investigate the President's husband but this effort lost steam after Rodrigo made her clarification.

But opposition Rep. Gilbert Remulla (Cavite) vowed to pursue a House investigation into the case.

"There's still smoke, we're trying to get to the fire," he told the INQUIRER.

"We're still studying the involvement of (Transportation and Communications consultant Malou) Nuñez," who reportedly worked for the reconsideration of the veto, Remulla said.

"We want her to testify."

He earlier co-authored a resolution seeking an inquiry.

Remulla said the opposition wanted to "dig deeper" since there are indications that Palace officials "are fighting among themselves and pointing accusing fingers at each other."

But Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said "it looks like it's over."

Bing Rodrigo "doesn't want to testify, what should we do?" Pimentel said, hours before flying to Washington to attend a conference on transnational crimes.

"We are a responsible opposition, we do not start something (when) we have no proof," he said.

Opposition Sen. Vicente Sotto III echoed the opinion, saying, "If there is evidence, there will be an investigation; if there is none, what can we do, we cannot push it."

Erap comments

In his first press conference since his arrest on plunder charges, ousted President Joseph Estrada made a brief comment about the controversy, comparing the allegations to charges once leveled against his wife and son Jinggoy Estrada, who were later cleared by Senate investigators.

"All I can say is that when the (former) first lady was accused (of fund misuse) when I was President, and my son was also included, I myself called the Senate chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee," Estrada said.

"I called him up immediately to schedule an investigation," the former leader told reporters after his pre-trial in the perjury case at the Sandiganbayan.

Pinched nerve

Arroyo cut short his 11-day trip to the United States by four days on the urging of his wife. He left on July 24 for California, where he was treated for bronchitis, a recurring back pain and a pinched nerve in his right foot.

"I left on July 24 to have a checkup on my back injury. But the truth is, I had trouble walking because my right foot had become numb. It turned out I had a pinched nerve there. So I was brought to the operating room and injected with cortisone. Since then walking has become easier," he said.

He said that if the medication did not have any effect on the nerve, he would have to go back to America for surgery.

Asked what he planned to do now, Arroyo said he would continue his charity work. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno, Donna S. Cueto, Armand N. Nocum; and AFP***

(Erratum: In a report published yesterday and headlined "Opposition suspends Bing probe," the sentence, "Tiglao confirmed that Ms Macapagal would submit an affidavit on the advice of Presidential Counsel Avelino Cruz," should have read: "Tiglao confirmed that Ms Macapagal would not submit an affidavit . . . ." Sorry for the editing error.—Ed.)

PCGG to verify Marcos gold story in South Korean newspaper

(From page A1)

worth $8 billion today, at the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) on Sept. 11, 1970.

"We will look into that," said Jorge Sarmiento, a commissioner of the PCGG, which has in the past dismissed as preposterous allegations that the Marcoses have stashed away more than 1,000 tons of gold bullion in underground vaults in Switzerland's Kloten airport.

Sarmiento said that he would ask the Philippine Embassy in Switzerland to make inquiries. Another commissioner, Ruben Carranza Jr., said the agency would ask the Philippine Embassy in Seoul to assist the PCGG in checking the veracity of the report.

"We're mandated to investigate every report on the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses," Carranza told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Sarmiento said this was the first time he had heard of the newspaper's allegation that Marcos used the name of another dictator to stash his alleged hidden wealth, but added "we will not leave anything to chance."

The newspaper carried a copy of the alleged bank account certificate on the front page.

Carranza said the PCGG was discussing its plans concerning the report, adding that it was not the first time that the agency has been faced with reports of the Marcoses' alleged hidden gold bars.

"The problem is there are many suspicious characters in these stories of ill-gotten wealth," the PCGG official said.

Newly installed PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac ordered the review of all the documents and evidence against the Marcoses in the agency's possession when she took over two weeks ago.

Do you remember?

In past investigations, the PCGG argued that reports of the Marcos hidden gold were incredible, given the tremendous amount of gold supposedly involved.

Imelda Marcos herself has claimed that her husband built a fortune through clandestine gold trading. She said he recovered much of the gold from the legendary "Yamashita treasure" supposedly looted throughout Asia and left behind by the Japanese Army general in the Philippines during World War II.

Ms Marcos has said that most of the family's gold certificates, by her claim worth around $100 billion, were confiscated by US customs authorities when the Marcoses went into exile in Hawaii in 1986.

The former first lady's claims led to a Senate investigation in 1999 that turned up nothing despite numerous depositions and voluminous documents appearing to attest to the existence of at least some of the gold.

Industrialist Enrique Zobel testified that Ferdinand Marcos in 1988 had shown him gold certificates, which Zobel estimated were worth $35 billion. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile shot down Zobel's claims as ridiculous.

For years, stories of the Marcos gold have come out of the woodwork. One of the strangest sprouted from the mouth of a priest and a former awardee of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines who came forward in 1999. He said he had evidence that the Marcos gold was worth $10 trillion, more than 10 times the combined worth of the world's top 200 billionaires that year.

Since its formation under the Aquino administration, the PCGG has been trying to track down billions of dollars in wealth that Marcos and his allies allegedly plundered from state coffers and stashed abroad.

In the early 1990s, the Philippines located about $540 million from Swiss accounts. The money is now held in escrow in a Philippine bank where, with interest, it has now grown to $642 million.

The reported 940 tons of gold is equivalent to 30,224,760 troy ounces. At the current US spot price of $267.90 per ounce, the gold, if it exists, is worth just under $8.1 billion.

In July, the Philippine government announced that it had been informed by Swiss and German officials that Marcos daughter Irene and her husband Greggy Araneta tried to transfer funds to Deutsche Bank from UBS.

This failed transaction is suspected to be an attempt to launder illegal wealth and the PCGG has said it will summon the couple for investigation. ***With a report from AFP***

KIM

MARCOS

Boy Scout 'na babae'?

(From page A1)

the BSP is shedding its "male-only policy" by welcoming girls from public schools to its fold.

As expected, the new BSP recruitment strategy does not sit well with the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP).

The two groups have been competing for membership since the school year started after they were barred from collecting fees from their members in public schools, according to Education Secretary Raul Roco.

"So they are now competing for membership because the boy scouts are poaching on the girls," Roco said.

"The boys are saying 'join the Boy Scouts, boy or girl, we will accept.' But the girl scouts are saying only girls can be accepted. Let us see who will win," said an amused Roco.

The education secretary said he could not understand why the BSP was opening its doors to girls when it has a counterpart organization for young women.

The GSP has 1.3 million members nationwide while the BSP has around 3 million members from both private and public schools.

Founded in 1936 as a public corporation, the BSP is the largest scout organization in the world in terms of the number of members as a ratio of the young people of "scouting age."

The BSP's task is to "promote, through organization and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues using the methods which are in common use by the Boy Scouts."

Roco has issued an order prohibiting the collection of fees from students in public schools to encourage the poor to send their children to school.

He noted that the fees were made prerequisites for enrollment, discouraging poor students from enrolling.

The education department has set a schedule for the solicitation of contributions by various private organizations like the GSP, BSP, Red Cross and Anti-TB Drive.

The BSP and GSP can collect this month from public schools, where they have many members.

"Even when we keep stressing voluntary contributions, if you join the Boy Scouts, then support the Boy Scouts," Roco said.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0289 Series of 2001

Crucial games in PBA today

DENNIS SABANGAN

RED Bull's Jimwell Torion (right) battling for the loose ball against Purefoods' David Wood.

Games Today (Cuneta Astrodome)
5:15 p.m.—San Miguel vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods

SAN Miguel Beer and Batang Red Bull hope to sustain their momentum while Alaska and Purefoods try to move on and forget their recent heartaches in today's semifinals of the PBA Commissioners' Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Beermen and the Thunder leveled the playing field Wednesday night, rolling past their opponents that reduced their respective best-of-five semifinal collisions into a best-of-three affair.

Again, the Beermen and the Aces go back to square one at 5:15 p.m. while the Hotdogs and the Thunder part ways in the nightcap.

"Now that the series has gone back to zero, the team which can execute well in defense will win and gain the upperhand," said San Miguel coach Jong Uichico.

Eliciting a favorable response from slotman Danny Ildefonso, the Beermen upended the Alaska Aces, 79-71, as both squads tied their series at one game apiece.

Stunningly, the Thunder did the same thing as they routed the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs by a mile, 95-76, in the other semifinal clash.

The Hotdogs were visibly out of sync as the Thunder tore the game apart in the third and coasted to victory.

On the other hand, the Aces inflicted pain voluntarily among themselves, flubbing a multitude of point-blank baskets and allowing Ildefonso to go crazy underneath.

Ildefonso, last year's MVP, wrecked the Alaska frontline by barreling in 30 points, scored mostly while the Aces were negotiating the comeback trail.

To prevent a similar incident, swingman Kenneth Duremdes should keep his focus, an ingredient missing during Alaska's last debacle.

Unable to find his range, the multimillion peso 1998 MVP muffed a lot of easy and game-turning shots to the delight of the San Miguel throng.

Perpetual trips SBC

Games Monday (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
12nn—Mapua vs San Beda (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—UPHR vs PCU (jrs/srs)

GILBERT Malabanan plucked University of Perpetual Help-Rizal from the brink of disaster as the Altas turned back San Beda College, 84-78, yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The Altas rallied from 19 points down for a 3-3 record.

As frustration swept over their faces, the Red Lions dropped deeper into the pits with a 1-5 record.

Malabanan scored 11 of his 29 markers in the fourth, including eight straight points that allowed the Altas to overtake the Red Lions for the first time, 74-69, 4.31 minutes remaining.

He also grabbed 16 rebounds and had two steals.

Malabanan's other half, Chester Tolomia, also did his work, contributing 14 points, 15 rebounds and five assists for the Altas.

UPHR 84—Malabanan 29, Tolomia 14, Ibrahim 14, Cuenco 11, Malabanan 9, Jensen 7, Alejandro 3, Romulo 2, Hawkins 2, Cosme 2, Quiazon 0.

SAN BEDA 78—Oliveros 16, Reroma 14, Cordero 13, Casio 8, Manding 6, Weber 6, Erestain 6, Hudencial 5, Juco 3, Lumen 1, Bombeo 0.

Quarters: 12-17, 31-48, 59-61, 84-78

Marlins battle Lakers

Games Today (Tinga Gym)
3:00 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs Davao
5:30 p.m.—Laguna vs Socsargen

MAKE sure to stop Jeffrey Flowers and Chris Clay and you beat the FedEx Laguna Lakers.

That should be the game plan of the Socsargen Marlins when they battle the Lakers at 5:30 p.m. today in the MBA First Phase at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Flowers was overpowering with a career-high 41 points and 20 rebounds when the Lakers dumped the Marlins in their first meeting.

Clay, on the other hand, came up with a career-high 45 points in the Lakers' 103-85 defeat to the LBC Batangas Blades last Wednesday.

Toting a 6-win, 7-loss record, the Lakers are assured of the fifth spot and a knockout showdown with the No. 4 qualifier.

That shouldn't be too hard owing to the Lakers' edge in manpower and firepower over the Marlins, who are at 2-11.

Nueva Ecija also targets a sweep of Davao in the 3 p.m. opener between also-ran teams.

The Patriots grounded the Eagles, 107-93, in their first game, but are way below the standings at 3-9.

MBA games are being televised live over Channel 4 on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Roy Luarca

Canlubang golf slated

THE 2ND Canlubang Amateur Open Golf Championships, featuring the country's top shotmakers in the men's and women's ranks, gets underway Aug. 21 at the north and south courses of Canlubang.

Marlon Dizon, who beat back-to-back national champion Angelo Que to win the inaugural staging of this event last year, is expected to lead the cast in the four-day championship.

Registration is now ongoing and will last until Aug. 17. Entry fee is P2,000, inclusive of green fee and one free practice round. The event is limited to the first 144 entrants.

The men's championship is a 72-hole, stroke play event while the ladies division, which Lina de Guzman won over Carmelette Villaroman last year, will be played through 54 holes

Also on tap in the tournament are the 36-hole championships in Division B for men and Classes A, B and C for men and women.

La Salle nips NU, 88-87

"FOUR-WARD" seeking La Salle escaped the upset axe against self-destructing National University, 88-87, while Far Eastern University needed a fiery finish to down Adamson, 67-58, in the UAAP men's basketball championship yesterday at the Loyola Gym.

Hardly playing good defense, La Salle stared at a gigantic upset but rookie-revelation Mark Cardona came to the rescue with crucial hits, giving the Green Archers their fourth win in five games to tie the Tamaraws for the lead with 4-1 cards.

The Bulldogs, who dropped to 2-3, had led, 87-85, and appeared ready to seal the Green Archers' doom when Gilbert Neo went to the stripes.

Neo, however, flubbed both his charities and Archen Cayabyab turned from hero to goat when he elbowed Cardona, who fell on him after converting his signature, one-handed, looping shot, 87-87, 18.9 seconds remaining.

The six-footer Cayabyab, who scorched the rim with six triples and 30 points, was slapped a flagrant foul, resulting to two free throws and ball possession awarded to the Archers. Cardona missed the first but sank the second.

Ren Ren Ritualo was fouled in the ensuing play but in a surprising finish to a roller-coaster game, the La Salle swingman missed both, giving the Bulldogs a chance to salvage the game, 10 seconds left.

To the shock of the Bulldogs' gallery, playmaker Froilan Baguion made a three-point attempt instead of attacking the hoop. Baguion missed and the Archers celebrated the big escape.

Dennis U. Eroa

Ming hails badminton event

THE JVC Asian Badminton Championships will not only provide the Filipino players the exposure they need to raise the level of their game but also give local badminton a tremendous boost when it is staged Aug. 22-26 at the Philsports Arena.

"The event will be a good exposure for the Filipino players," said Philippine Badminton Association (PBA) president and former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos. "But we hope the public will come and support our players." Local fans will be treated to a five-day showcase of world-class badminton.

The No. 1 doubles team of Gao Ling and Huang Sui of China, Sydney Olympics men's double gold medalists Tony Gunawan and Halim Haryanto of Indonesia lead a big field in the $150,000 event sponsored by the Japanese electronic giant JVC.

Pasay 3-cock derby fires off tonight

PASAY City Cockpit, one of Metro Manila's classiest cockfighting centers, presents another super 3-cock derby beginning at 7 tonight.

A cash prize of P150,000 is at stake in this event hosted by the JR Sa Pasay Group. Entry fee is P5,500. Interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Slated on Aug. 10 is the big-time 4-cock derby promoted by veteran cocker-sportsman Maj. Bobby Doromal. Prize at stake is P300,000. Entry fee is P10,000.

Meanwhile, lawyer Rudy Salud's Winning Time DVH emerged as one of six champions in the recently concluded PCC Anniversary 5-Cock derby (156) entries.

Delasin should be emulated

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I MAY sound a broken record already, but RA 9064 otherwise known as the "Sports Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001" should be amended by the 12th Congress because it is unfair and discriminatory to world-class Filipino athletes such as amazing golfer Dorothy Delasin, billiards champion Efren "Bata" Reyes and bowling legend Paeng Nepomuceno, whose events are not in the Olympic calendar.

RA 9064 grants cash and other incentives to medal winners in international competitions sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee and IOC-recognized tournaments held every four years like the Olympic Games. Because golf, billiards and bowling are non-Olympic events, Delasin, Reyes and Nepomuceno do not qualify for the rewards, leading many dumbfounded and asking: Where is fairness here?

As far as the people are concerned, Delasin, Reyes and Nepomuceno are the true champions who should be treated more kindly by the government. It is not their fault if their sport is not in the Olympics. A well-earned victory in a world-class tournament should be considered at par with any Olympic achievement. For instance, who will dare say that the victories of Tiger Woods in golf should be rated less because it is not an Olympic sport and that it is held annually?

Let's take the case of Delasin.

Last Monday, 20-year-old Delasin put the Philippines in the world map by winning in dramatic fashion her second straight Giant Eagle LPGA Classic, carding a fourth best-round 65 (for a 13-under 203 total) and nosing out early leaders Se Ri Pak of South Korea and Tammy Green of the United States. She won $150,000 for the victory. But despite her sizzling triumph, Delasin cannot be recognized as a beneficiary of RA 9064 because she won in a non-Olympic or Asian Games tournament. In effect, it would now appear that Delasin had accomplished nothing since the Giant Eagle Classic is not in the Olympics. This is most unfair to Delasin.

Fortunately, there is the Philippine Sports Commission to fill the gap left by RA 9064. Although the PSC is not awash in cash, it still provides some monetary incentives to achievers like Delasin. As PSC chair Carlos aptly put it, "In these hard times, the kind of determination Delasin displayed to achieve her goal proffers an inspiration to her countrymen. It's the Filipino fighting spirit shining through."

Delasin, who grew up a poor girl, is bound to enjoy life's luxuries in the coming years, said Tuason who added, "We take pride in having helped Dorothy in our own little way when she was still an amateur and we reiterated the present administration's pledge of support for more role models in sports like Ms. Delasin who can bring glory to the country."

Ultimate victim

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IRRATIONAL best describes the decision of the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) suspending the Basketball Association of the Philippines. Irrational because it made the country the ultimate victim.

The decision effectively made Fiba ignore the independence of the Philippine Olympic Committee to resolve disputes on its turf. And I thought international sports bodies were peopled by rational persons?

Listen. If the suspension would stay and the country failed to participate in Sea Games basketball this September in Kuala Lumpur, who would suffer?

Lito Puyat? Nah.

Tiny Literal? Nah.

The players? A little. Every cager in this basketball-crazed land dreams of playing for his country.

But the ultimate sufferer would be the country.

Basketball not present in Kuala Lumpur would be like seeing Malacañang Palace minus the presidential seal. Basketball is this country's national game, remember?

And, yes, basketball not present in Kuala Lumpur would mean minus one medal for the country. Could be a gold medal as the country never lost the basketball gold since the biennial meet began in 1977.

A gold is a gold is a gold.

Look, in the 1991 Sea Games in Manila, we lost by one gold to Indonesia. Just one. So, never underestimate the power of one. In elections, one vote is one vote. In your take-home pay, one peso is one peso.

But I saw a ray of hope when the Fiba sort of reconsidered and ordered Puyat and Literal to reconcile. As you know, Puyat and Literal are the BAP presidents. To say that that's an aberration is an understatement. How the two became president of one association, even Justice Davide would not know how it happened, would not want to know why it happened.

The Fiba has given Puyat and Literal a deadline to kiss and make up, to decide who between them is BAP president. Puyat agreed. Not Literal. Literal may have his reasons for ignoring Fiba's decree. Sound or not, I don't want to know. What I know is, Puyat did the right thing but not Literal.

But there's another ray of hope: Fiba will arrive in the Philippines any day now and its presence should finally resolve the case with finality. I hope Fiba will lift the suspension and restore the country's right to play basketball in Kuala Lumpur.

If Fiba cannot make either Puyat or Literal BAP president, so be it. But, please, for once, let's spare the bystander. The bystander has suffered enough in the crossfire—with Literal, sadly, doing the most damage. And who is the bystander again?

Poor Philippines.

Enough is enough.

Stop being belligerent, Tiny? And no more court cases, please, should Fiba elect to side with Puyat's stand?

Country first, personal interest second.

Carter inks $94-M deal

TORONTO—Vince Carter, deciding there was no sense leaving a city where he is so comfortable, agreed on Wednesday to a six-year contract extension worth approximately $94 million.

The announcement came on Vince Carter Day, as decreed by Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman.

With one year left on his existing deal, the extension should keep Carter in the city he said feels like home until he is 31.

AP

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Golden Child 2. Our Hope 3. Aaron's Hope 4. Court General
Race 2—1. Houdini 2. Bravada 3. Samahan 4. Maayo Sigaw
Race 3—1. Pep Talk 2. Powerhouse 3. Pep Talk 4. Prime Minister
Race 4—1. Iron Lady 2. Sarratoga's Bet 3. Premiere Treasure 4. Memory Lane
Race 5—1. Wendy's Pride 2. Arresbee 3. Real McCoy
Race 6—1. Classy Babe 2. Turbo Carera 3. Knows Love 4. Nagniningning
Race 7—1. Exceptional Charm 2. Grand Prize 3. Arigato 4. Daseldurf
Race 8—1. My Prayer 2. Modulo Queen 3. Angelovich 4. Gentleman Jim 5. Snub Nose 6. Mina's Pet
Race 9—1. All Smiles 2. Hurry Prince 3. Silver Lining 4. Terribly One

10 YEARS AGO

CHRISTINE Rose Mariano defeated Mila Emperador in a Sicilian game to win the National women's chess championship at the Don Severino Agricultural College in Indang, Cavite.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
New York	65	42	.608	—
Boston	60	46	.566	4 1/2
Toronto	50	58	.463	15 1/2
Baltimore	45	63	.417	20 1/2
Tampa Bay	35	72	.327	30
Central				
Cleveland	61	45	.576	—
Minnesota	60	47	.561	1 1/2
Chicago	52	53	.495	8 1/2
Detroit	46	59	.438	14 1/2
Kansas City	42	65	.393	19 1/2
West				
Seattle	77	30	.720	—
Oakland	57	50	.533	20
Anaheim	55	52	.514	22
Texas	48	59	.449	29

National League	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
Atlanta	60	47	.561	—
Philadelphia	58	49	.542	2
Florida	54	52	.509	5 1/2
New York	50	58	.463	10 1/2
Montreal	46	62	.426	14 1/2
Central				
Chicago	62	44	.585	—
Houston	58	49	.542	4 1/2
St. Louis	54	51	.514	7 1/2
Milwaukee	45	60	.429	16 1/2
Cincinnati	43	63	.406	19
Pittsburgh	41	65	.387	21
West				
Los Angeles	61	47	.565	—
Arizona	60	47	.561	1/2
San Francisco	58	49	.542	2
San Diego	52	55	.486	8 1/2
Colorado	45	62	.421	15 1/2

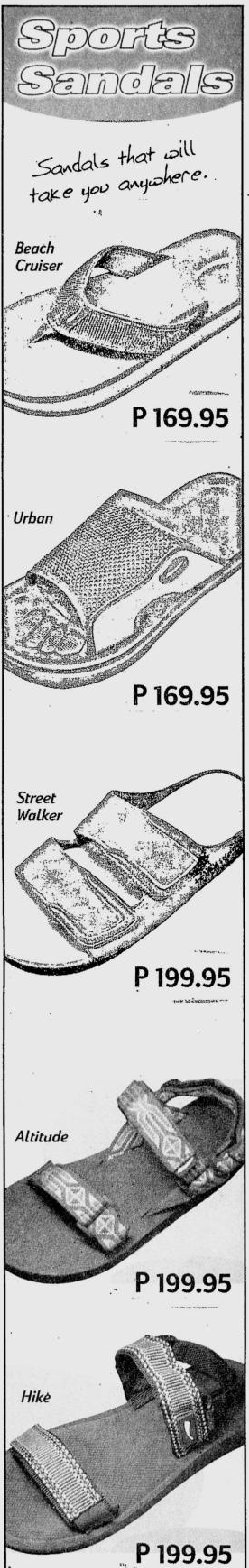
AMERICAN LEAGUE

Anaheim 4, Boston 2. Toronto 3, Minnesota 1. Seattle 7, Detroit 1; N.Y. Yankees 9, Texas 7. Cleveland 6, Oakland 5. Baltimore 6, Tampa Bay 5; Chicago White Sox 7, Kansas City 6.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis 4, Atlanta 0. N.Y. Mets 8, Houston 2, 10 innings. Florida 5, Milwaukee 4, 10 innings. Montreal 8, Arizona 5. San Diego 4, Chicago Cubs 3. Cincinnati 10, Los Angeles 5. San Francisco 3, Pittsburgh 1; Philadelphia 8, Colorado 1, 6 innings, rain.

AP



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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▩ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Archer rips 2 RP marks

AN 18-year-old from Caloocan City broke two Philippine records in the Malaysian Archery Championships in Johor Baru recently.

Syd Nerickzon Fraginal also smashed the SEA Games mark to become the Philippines' newest archery star and make it to the Kuala Lumpur Games this September.

Fraginal beat Thailand's Prawit Poljungleed, 116 to 102 points, in the finals to capture the individual gold.

Another Filipino, Jakarta SEAG gold and bronze medalist Christian Cubilla nipped Indonesia's Syafrudin Mawi, 107-105, to take the individual bronze.

Fraginal's 116 points for 12 arrows in the Olympic Round surpassed the 115 national mark set by Clint Sayo in 1997 and the SEAG standard also of 115 established by Indonesia's Hendra Setyawan in 1993 in Singapore.

Fraginal's total of 650 points for 72 arrows also wiped out the 490 Philippine record set by Clint Sayo in 1997. He also fired 161 points to tie the SEAG mark made by Thailand's Doungchien Woroapoth in Jakarta in 1997.

Fraginal and two other Filipinos—Marvin Cordero and Abigail Tindugan—will also receive FITA Star from the International Archery Federation for shooting 1252, 1238 and 1232 points, respectively.

Tindugan finished eighth and Cordero ninth in the Malaysian event while Bryan Carlo Figueroa checked in 19th.

The RP team finished fourth overall, behind Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Mercedes-Benz Tennis Masters Series (Montreal), Early Round Coverage Day #4 at 1:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. (r), Men's Quarterfinal Match tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN

GOLF: PGA John Deere Classic Highlights at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour at 12 noon (r – 8 p.m.) on Star Sports

LPGA Giant Eagle Classic, Second Round at 5:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

PGA - The International Presented, First Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

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KAMPO 2086 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	AEGIS ACOLITES/VANNA VANNA	P 250 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
EXAMINER'S LITE n' LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST., Q.C.	PASSAGE NXTPAGE	JOSHUA & JULIE 373.2221/373.7183
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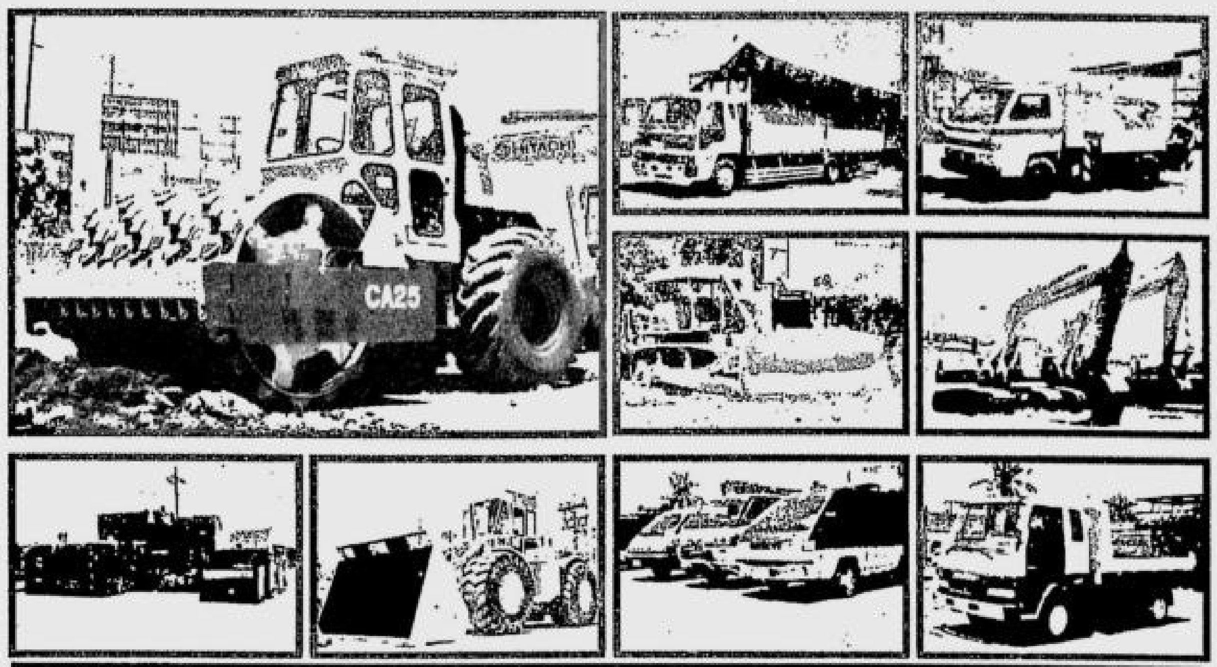

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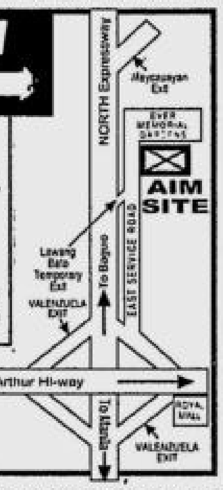

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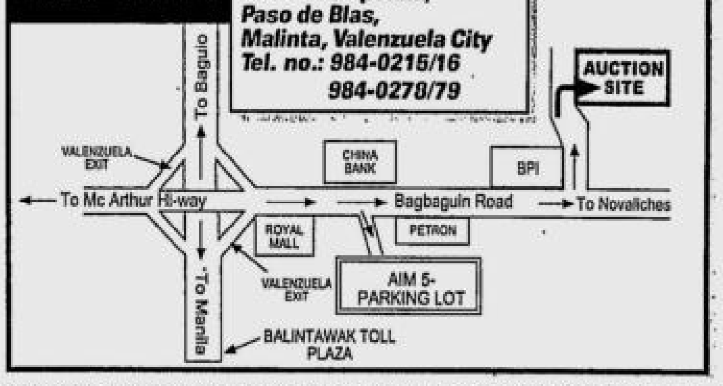

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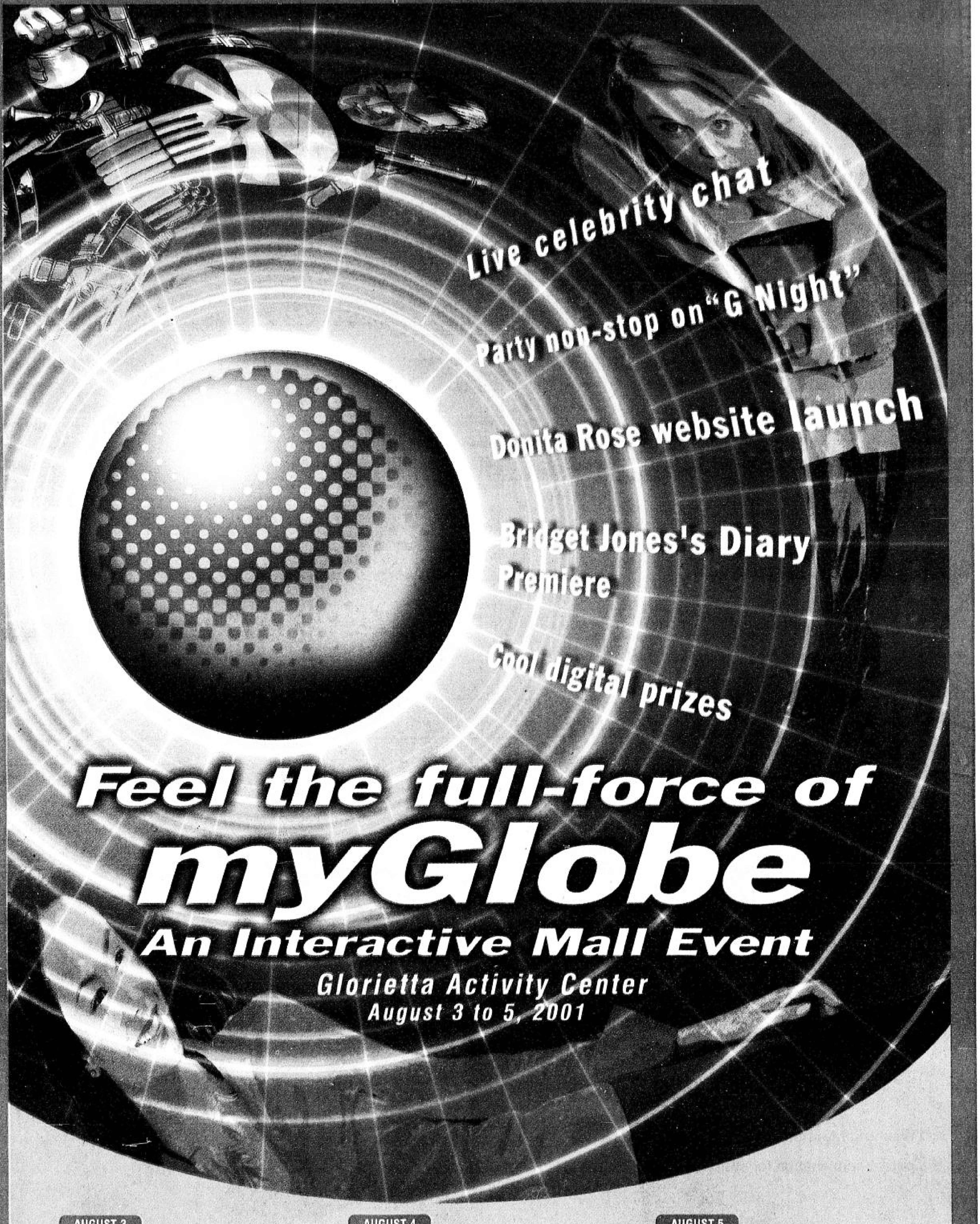
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AUGUST 4

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1pm to 6pm	**PinoyCentral Celebrity Chat:** Chat with your favorite celebrities like Mai Mai Cojuangco, Angel Aquino, Kay Abad, JM Rodriguez, Geneva Cruz and more! Log-on to: *myglobe.pinoycentral.com* for more details.
6:30pm	**myGlobe No Limits Concert:** Featuring Silk and Passage.
7:30pm	**"Bridget Jones's Diary" Premiere:** Glorietta 4, Cinema 6 (Invitation required)
9:00pm	**myGlobe "G NIGHT":** Glorietta 4, Lobby, a one-night-only party at the place formerly known as Stars. Official bar host: WherElse?

AUGUST 5

10am to 6pm	**myGlobe Interactivity Booths open:** Register at the different booths, play the games, bid on hot items, and get to win special prizes courtesy of McDonald's, Selecta Cornetto, and Ayala Mall merchants.
4pm to 6pm	**Launch of Donita Rose Website:** Chat with your favorite MTV VJ online or through Globe Mobile Chat, and be one of the first to surf to her official website.

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NPA rebels kill Laguna woman, son
A24

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Only solon, not Malonzo, to be proclaimed
A26

'Lover' suspected in FedEx manager's slay

By Agnes E. Donato

POLICE are looking for a man aged between 20 and 24 and believed to be the lover of the Federal Express station manager for Metro Manila who was found dead on Monday.

FedEx executive Manuel Pinzon, 48, was found dead inside his house on A. Sotto Street in Barangay Tibaga, San Juan, about 9:30 p.m. Monday, police said.

Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, San Juan police chief, said investigators have yet to establish a lead on the killing but they believe that Pinzon could have

'LOVER'/A24

KRIS and Joshua.

Kris' son Joshua run over by van

A24

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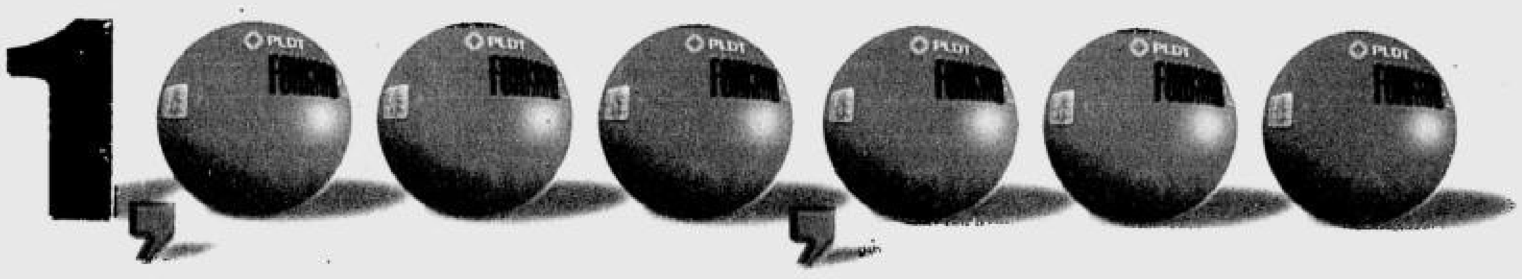

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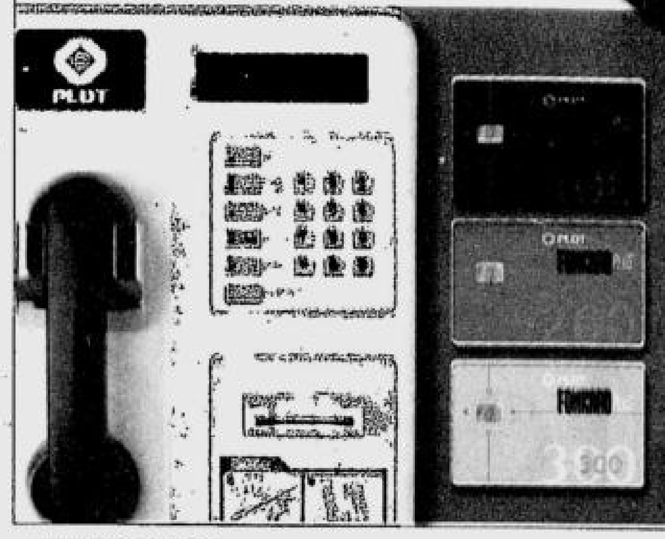

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BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(FOR THE RECORD: Sammy Gello-Ani, top boxing promoter from Cebu, says he has faxed an explanation of the case of Joselito Rivera, a protesting boxer whose letter we ran here in full last week. We tried but couldn't find the fax sheet. Anyway, Mr. Gello-Ani told another friend that he did sign up Rivera for a fight not knowing the boxer had already signed previously with Gabriel "Bebot'' Elorde. All he wanted was to help Rivera, a former World Boxing Federation lightweight champion, Gello-Ani explained. He said he should actually be lodging a complaint but never bothered to do so as he did not intend to complicate Rivera's already complicated situation. All he wanted, he said, was to be of help….My father's favorite goodson, Rep. Manoling Ortega of San Fernando, La Union, who holds a clean record of having won all his political battles, reached a new milestone in his career when he was named to the Commission on Appointments in the House or Representatives. A salute to you, Lakay.)

* * *

THERE'S so much groaning, squatters are all over the place, and you can clearly read despair, hunger, hopelessness in the faces of people out in the streets.

This is not a situation report right out of Bangladesh.

This is Manila today, as seen by a vivacious native daughter.

Bing B. returned last week after a few years' absence. She was shocked and disheartened by what greeted her on her way to a sister's place in Makati.

The kids are themselves quite terrified, she continues, why everything is in disarray, there's so much chaos and, oh the filth, the garbage out in the streets, whatever happened here?

Things were not exactly perfect the last time they were here.

But today, she cries, everything seems to be on the verge of sinking.

* * *

Not only that. She notes that everybody seems to be quarreling, everybody seems to be at odds with each other. Things and thoughts seem to be falling into pieces.

Well, they did not come here to cast a critical eye on everything. They came over to visit and renew old ties, enjoy the sights.

But this time out, Bing continues, the kids themselves are often left aghast and astonished.

We still love this country very much, she explains, we're currently based in Washington, but this is still our home. We love the Philippines. We all believe something must be done, right away, or the situation would really go out of hand.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo? We're happy with the change in government. That previous administration really did us all in. It was a big shame. Corruption, criminality, wholesale fraud, immorality. That was really a very dark period in our history as a people. Thank God there was Edsa Two.

But then, we are all wrong if we think Gloria Macapagal can work miracles all by herself, no, no, no. She definitely can't do it alone.

* * *

Everybody must give a helping hand, the visiting native daughter explains, Gloria Macapagal needs all our support.

In fact, she says, there are a lot of Fil-Ams, millions of them, out in the United States who are ready and raring to help out.

I know of people who would like to go on a mission to help our country, Bing says. They could come and spend big dollars to help boost the economy, but authorities can't just sit here and cry; they must wake up and provide immediate remedies where they are badly needed.

* * *

A lot of problems need immediate solutions.

One sample: Bing says she and her family, including Bill, a respected and prominent American journalist who used to head the Asia bureau of a major US daily, went to Boracay last week. They stayed for four days.

The place, she says, is still paradise.

But that last trip to paradise Boracay also left a hellish taste in the mouth.

She's also been left to wonder how she could invite friends back in Washington to visit Boracay.

You know what, Bing says, they would not accept credit cards out there in Boracay.

The situation is that bad, all the establishments wanted cash, dollars, right away, no ifs, no buts, it's money down for everything you want. No credit cards.

Of course, they were not too keen in bringing in bundles of cash for fear they would be robbed, as what had happened to a group of 10 Korean tourists recently.

OK, so they reluctantly agreed to settle everything in dollars.

But my God, Bing groans, they would agree to deal with us only if we sold our greenbacks for only P48 each.

She said they haggled for at least P50 to a dollar, but the Filipino proprietors would not budge.

There was no turning back. They stayed but it was like being held up cold each time they approached the counter.

I don't know how we could ever invite our friends to come here, Bing groans. The Philippines is a still a great tourist destination, but our image needs a major repair, right away.

With that sorry money situation in Boracay, she asks, who needs the Abu Sayyaf?

Bing and her family return to America Monday.

NPA rebels kill Laguna woman, son

By Agnes E. Donato

A WOMAN and her 7-year-old son were killed while a soldier was wounded in two encounters between government troops and New People's Army rebels on Tuesday.

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, Army chief for public affairs, said Merly Ibañez, 23, and her son Christian, 7, were killed after they were caught in a crossfire in Rizal, while Sgt. Carlos Llanes Jr. was wounded in a clash in Nagcarlan, Laguna.

The army reported no casualties from the rebel's side.

In Barangay Silangan, Nagcarlan, a patrol from the Army's 4th Special Forces Battalion under Capt. Rolando Noto chanced upon some 50 fully armed rebels about 2 p.m. on July 31, Mabanta said.

The troopers opened fire on the rebels and engaged them in an hour-long exchange, during which Llanes was hit in the lower right leg.

The wounded soldier was taken to the San Pablo Community Hospital after the rebels withdrew from the field, leaving behind two M16 rifles, a .38 caliber revolver, a fragmentation grenade, and several rounds of ammunition.

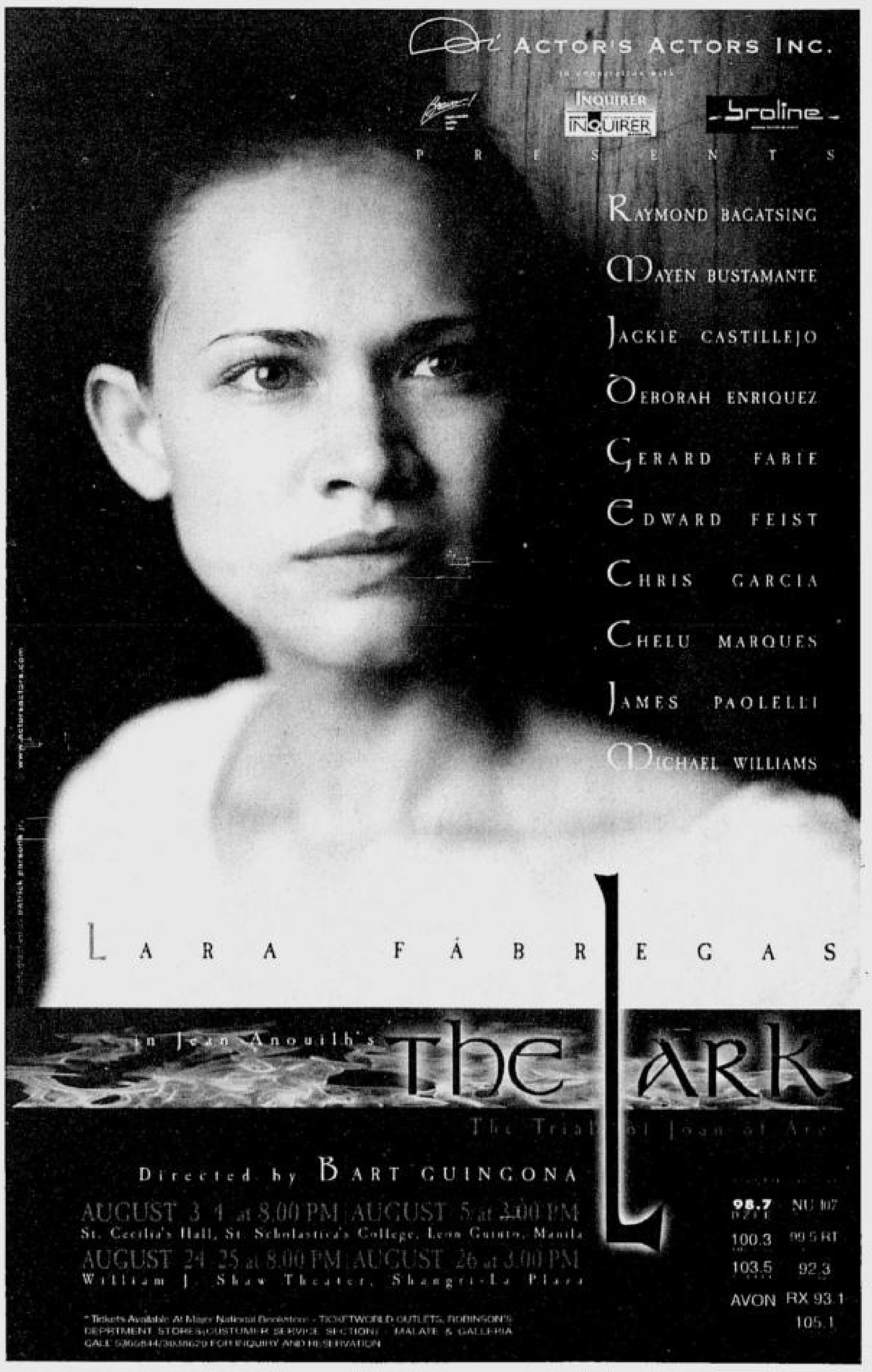
Mabanta said the rebels also left behind two sacks containing personal belongings and subversive documents.

In Sitio Sto. Niño, Barangay Tala, Rizal, a unit from the Army's 5th Special Forces Company under Sgt. Rolando Austria clashed with seven alleged NPA members, three of whom were said to be women.

Ibañez and her son happened to be in the area when the troopers engaged the rebels in a 30-minute firefight.

The boy died on the spot while Merly succumbed to gunshot wounds as she was being treated at the San Pablo City Community Hospital.

After the encounter, troopers recovered an M16 rifle, an M14 rifle, a fragmentation grenade, several rounds of ammunition, and four backpacks.



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Kris' son Joshua run over by van

By Leah Salterio

KRIS Aquino's 6-year-old son Joshua Phillip was hurt in a freak accident late Wednesday afternoon when their Ford Expedition van ran over him outside their residence in Quezon City.

Kris brought Joshua to the St. Luke's Hospital, also in Quezon City, where he is now confined.

"It was a miracle nothing broke, since the wheel rolled over his thigh after he fell," Aquino told the Inquirer yesterday. "God is good. Josh's guardian angel was alert."

Josh is Kris' son with action star Phillip Salvador. Kris and Phillip are estranged.

Aquino was in the beauty parlor when the accident happened. She was preparing to go to the opening of The Red Crab Restaurant on Tomas Morato. Her mother, former President Cory Aquino, rushed to the St. Luke's emergency room to be beside her grandchild.

"The car went back to the house to get my things," Kris recalled. "When Josh saw the car, he chased it because he wanted to go to me. He fell and the driver didn't see him.

"Josh's spine could have been crushed," she said. "Fortunately, it was just his thigh and not his pelvis. He has implants in his urinary tract."

Josh underwent kidney operation in the United States when he was barely one year old. He is a special child who has been diagnosed to have a condition called attention deficit hyper-activity disorder (ADHD).

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 3, 2001
17th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Lev 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37**
Gospel: **Mt 13:54-58**

Jesus went to his hometown and taught the people in their synagogue. They were amazed and said, "Where did he get this wisdom and these special powers? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary his mother and aren't James, Joseph, Simon and Judas his brothers? Aren't all his sisters living here? How did he get all this?" And so they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them, "The only place where prophets are not welcome is their hometown and in their own family." And he did not perform many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Commentary:

In today's reading Matthew once again points at human stereotyping as a serious hindrance to accepting the Gospel. People with this attitude are unable to see and accept the human person in a real God-given perspective. This conduct can effectively destroy a community. Even divine wisdom remains unrecognized. Matthew challenges the disciples to do away with old sterile definitions and to opt for a new way of looking at people from the perspective of faith. Only this new disposition has the power to bring people together as children of God. It paves the way to a radically new and healthy way of relating.

Father in heaven, too many times we miss occasions of grace because of labeling people. Open our eyes to discover your love in the people we meet.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE: PROVISIONAL REMEDIES)—Writ of preliminary attachment—The attachment is a mere provisional remedy to ensure the safety and preservation of the thing attached until the plaintiff can, by appropriate proceedings, obtain a judgment and have such property applied to its satisfaction. To discharge the attachment at this stage of the proceedings would render inutile any favorable judgment should the government prevail in the principal action against the petitioner. When the writ of attachment is issued upon a ground, which is at the same time the applicant's cause of action, the only other way the writ can be lifted or dissolved is by a counterbond, in accordance with Section 12 of the same rule. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Chuidian v. Sandiganbayan (Fifth Division), G.R. No. 139941, January 19, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

'Lover' ...

(From page A23)

been killed by a lover.

Pinzon, police said, suffered several stab wounds in the back, hip and right thigh.

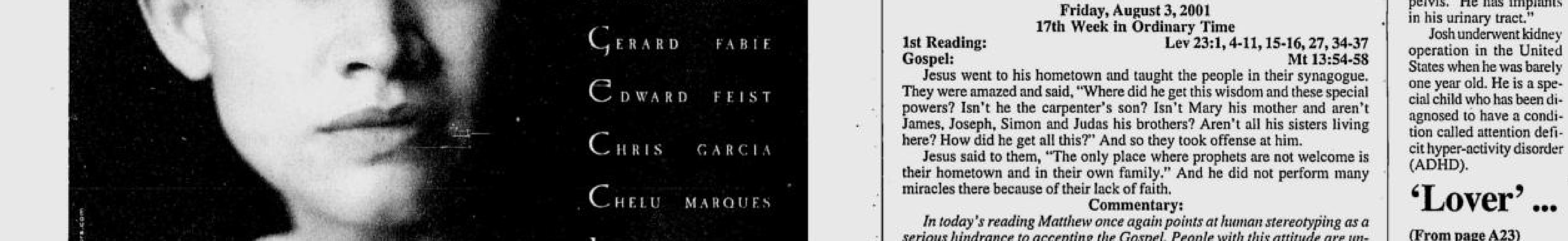
A young man was the last person seen with Pinzon before his nephew, Ferdinand Tolentino, found him dead, police said.

There was no sign of forcible entry in Pinzon's house but some of his possessions were reported missing, police said.

They said Pinzon's cell phone, several pieces of jewelry and an undetermined amount of money were missing.

Pinzon's body was covered with a sheet and was on a bamboo bench in the living room, police said.

De Gracia said that his men had already spoken with Pinzon's relatives and colleagues and found out that the victim had no enemies who could have killed him. Police also found the black plastic handle of a kitchen knife in the house and broken pieces of glass in the terrace.



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Sharon is upstaged by KC and couldn't be any happier

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IT HAS probably never happened to her illustrious career as a singer and actress. But last Thursday, megastar **Sharon Cuneta** was upstaged in public, not by a bigger star, but by her 16-year-old daughter **KC Concepcion.**

There was a horde of people—TV crew, print media writers, paparazzi—yet, their focus was not on Sharon, but on KC.

It was understandable, since the public has always been curious and interested about Sharon's teenage daughter. And since KC had never gone public despite her celebrity status, she suddenly found herself in the middle of a media frenzy.

Sharon, however, does not really mind. In fact, she even basks at the attention her daughter is now getting.

"Feel *na* feel *ko dahil anak ko 'yan,"* Sharon tells us.

It was the launch of KC as the image model of Human, the alternative fashion label from garment honcho **Ben Chan.**

Although far from being a stage mom, Sharon was there to lend moral support to KC. And she was not the only one. Her hubby, Sen. **Francis Pangilinan,** was there, too, as well as their seven-month-old baby girl, **Frankie.**

Sharon's mom, **Elaine Cuneta,** cousins **Ciara** and **Lala Sotto,** parents-in-law **Donato** and **Emma Pangilinan, Gary** and **Angeli Valenciano, Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan** also graced the affair.

KC was signed up as Human image model reportedly for a cool P5-million talent fee. But Chan refuses to confirm if the figure is accurate.

"Don't you think KC is the most interesting 'Human'?" Chan says. "She's young, vibrant and unpredictable. She's adventurous in dressing up. When I met her, I liked her style. For me, she's a prize catch."

Countless offers

KC has been receiving countless offers to do TV commercials, movies and TV shows since she was 9, but it is only now that she has given her nod to a product endorsement.

"I've been using Human clothes for the longest time," KC shares. "I won't endorse something that I don't believe in."

KC is also making her theater debut in the re-staging of the Trumpets musical, "Little Mermaid," from Aug. 3 to Sept. 9 at the Meralco Theater. KC will play Princess Sapphire.

However, in case everyone thinks that being the image model of Human and appearing in "Little Mermaid" signal the start of KC's show-biz career, Sharon says it will be back to academic life for her daughter come September, when classes at International School resume.

"I only allowed her to do these things because it's her school break, that's why the timing is perfect," Sharon explains.

It was not hard to convince Sharon to allow KC to model for Human.

"I believe she's ready for it," Sharon says "Besides, I've known Ben since 1989 and his track record in the garment business is very good. That's why when he approached us for KC, it was not really hard to say yes to him."

The mom says her daughter is not likely to follow in her footsteps and become an actress.

"KC doesn't like the movies, she likes to sing," Sharon grants. "But I really want her to finish her studies first before she gets serious about show biz."

Gracious answers

During the Human launch, KC was presented in a grand visual showcase at the Carlos Romulo Auditorium of the RCBC Plaza in Makati. She modeled a couple of Human garments, before graciously answering questions fielded by the media.

"Please limit your queries to fashion and Human," host **Ces Drilon** tells the media. "No personal questions. I hope you get the drift."

Although she is now a celebrity endorser of a garment line, KC has her own fashion icons such as pop superstar **Madonna,** No Doubt vocalist **Gwen Stefani,** actress **Cameron Diaz** and "Party of Five" mainstay **Jennifer Love Hewitt.**

KC obviously got her striking features from her dad Gabby, who is now based in the United States. However, since she has been estranged from her father for a long time now, KC hardly talks about her dad.

"I don't know my biological dad that well to be able to say what I got from him," she says. "I know I got my patience from my step dad, though."

Surprisingly, KC admits she is not a big Sharon fan. But she likes her mom's version of the South Border hit, "Kahit Kailan." And among the many Sharon blockbusters, KC gives her vote to "Madrasta," where Sharon starred with **Christopher de Leon** and played stepmom to **Claudine Barretto.**

"I still believe my mom is second to none," KC says.

KC has definitely got what it takes to be a megastar like her mom. Sharon can prevent it from happening, but not for a long time.

"MOST interesting Human." KC Concepcion turns celebrity image model, with a hefty talent fee.

MEGA couple Sharon Cuneta and Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, with Human honcho Ben Chan (right).

PHOTOS BY ERNIE SARMIENTO

Mild Seven continues bar tour

CHECK out where the gorgeous models of Mild Seven are going to party this weekend and you might just clinch for yourself a pack of Mild Seven cigarettes.

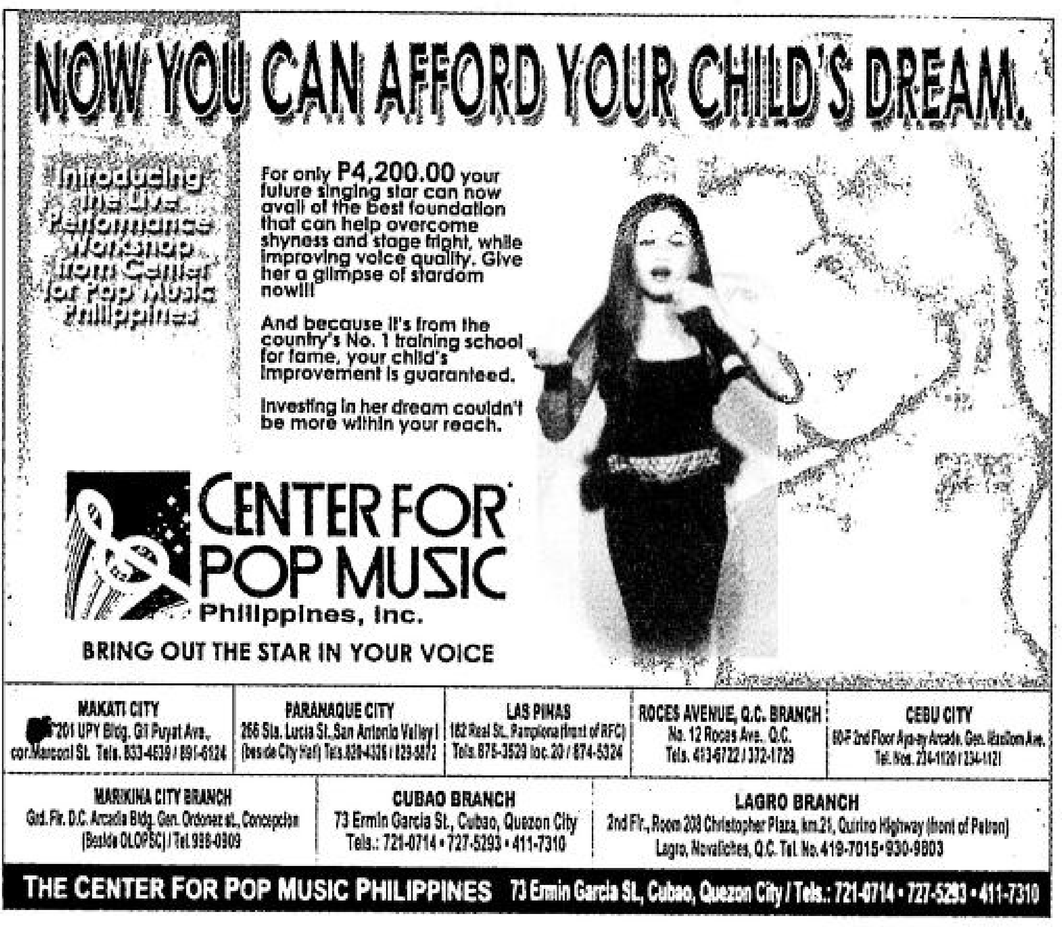
Tonight, the team is headed to the Mardi Gras capital of the city—Malate. Get ready for fun, games and cigarette breaks at Mint, Pepe and Pilar, Java Hut, Timbuktu, Wave, Jazz Rhythms, 617 Nakpil, Nth Degree, Bedrock and Ten Years After.

Saturdays are no exception for the hardworking Mild Seven team. They will set their sights on Quezon City—Cactus, Famous Mike's, Grilla, Katips, Giligans, Congo Grille, Cafea, East Saint Louie, Humidor, Big Shots Bar and Billiards, Bugsy, Decades, Quattro, Southern Bulls and Lite n' Live.

Join in the exciting gimmicks and games and win Mild Seven prizes like caps and shirts, as well as lighters and ashtrays. Or you can trade in your puffs for Mild Seven packs.

THE DAWN IN CONCERT AT VIRGIN CAFÉ

The Dawn, the band which popularized such tunes as "Enveloped Ideas," "Salamat" and "Iisang Bangka," among others, will rock Virgin Café in Tomas Morato, Quezon City tomorrow night, Aug. 4.



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Only solon, not Malonzo, to be proclaimed

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA AND CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

ONLY Caloocan congressman-elect Enrico "Recom" Echiverri would be proclaimed today, and winning reelectionist mayor Reynaldo Malonzo and other officials would have to wait.

The Supreme Court yesterday clarified that its order lifting the suspension of the proclamation in the city it issued on July 31 did not cover Malonzo and the rest.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo on Wednesday announced that Malonzo and other winning local officials, including Echiverri, would be proclaimed based on the Temporary Restraining Order the high court had issued.

Also yesterday, Benipayo corrected his earlier statement and said, "the Comelec can only proclaim Echiverri, while the others will have to wait."

"The TRO was not clear on who's covered and who is not, but that may just be an oversight," Benipayo said.

Echiverri had filed a petition for a preliminary injunction with the Supreme Court on the May 25 Comelec en banc resolution suspending the proclamation of winning candidates in the city.

But Benipayo said Malonzo and other winning candidates could file similar petitions with the SC like Echiverri.

"They would probably get the same result," he said.

The proclamation of winners in Caloocan was suspended pending a Comelec decision on a petition filed by losing mayoral candidate Luis "Baby" Asistio.

In his petition, Asistio asked the poll body to declare a failure of elections in the city due to alleged massive fraud and disenfranchisement of voters.

But yesterday, Malonzo said the Comelec had already notified him that he would be proclaimed today.

Malonzo offered to reconcile with his political rivals "Baby" Asistio and his older brother Macario "Boy" Asistio.

"I'm willing to reconcile with them," he said. "It's up to them if they would accept it."

Caloocan needs to undergo a healing process because of the effects of his long-running war with the Asistios, according to him.

But the Asistio camp was not about to accept Malonzo's offer.

Allan Encarnacion, spokesperson of the Asistios, said the OIC mayor was celebrating too early.

"He still can't eat the *lechon*," Encarnacion said.

Benipayo also said he would have to issue another memorandum to Ferdinand Rafanan, Comelec National Capital Region director and acting chair of the Caloocan City board of canvassers, ordering Echiverri's proclamation.

On Wednesday, Benipayo ordered Rafanan to proclaim all winning candidates based on the SC TRO.

Malonzo waited an hour outside the Comelec office to be proclaimed that afternoon. But because of a technicality that required a day's notice to all parties concerned, he was not proclaimed.

On Asistio's petition to declare a failure of election in Caloocan, Benipayo said he was still waiting for the draft resolution Commissioner Luz Tanchangco had written and which had been circulated among the other commissioners for their signatures.

Tancangco's draft resolution supported Asistio's petition as Caloocan 70,000 voters were disenfranchised.

She said this number was significant enough to affect the result in the mayoral race where Malonzo led Asistio by only 31,000 votes.

QC house help stabs tormentor to death

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

FOR taunting him for the nth time, house help Wilson Lenban, 26, repeatedly stabbed his co-worker to death on Wednesday in Quezon City.

Rotando Obina, 33, of 279 J.P. Rizal St. in Project 4, Quezon City, did not make it alive to the hospital after Lenban stabbed him eight times, said investigator PO1 Edwin de la Cruz of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Most of the stab wounds were in Obina's chest and stomach, De la Cruz added.

He said the bloody killing happened at 7:45 a.m. Wednesday.

Obina had been taunting and making jokes about Lenban since Tuesday night, investigators said.

When Wednesday morning came and Obina continued to crack jokes at the expense of Lenban, the latter's rage overflowed.

De la Cruz said the two men got into a heated argument until Lenban pulled out a knife and lunged at Obina.

Lenban kept on stabbing Obina until the latter slumped to the ground with blood flowing from his eight stab wounds.

Lenban escaped, De la Cruz said.

Obina was brought to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center but he was declared dead on arrival around 8 a.m., he added.

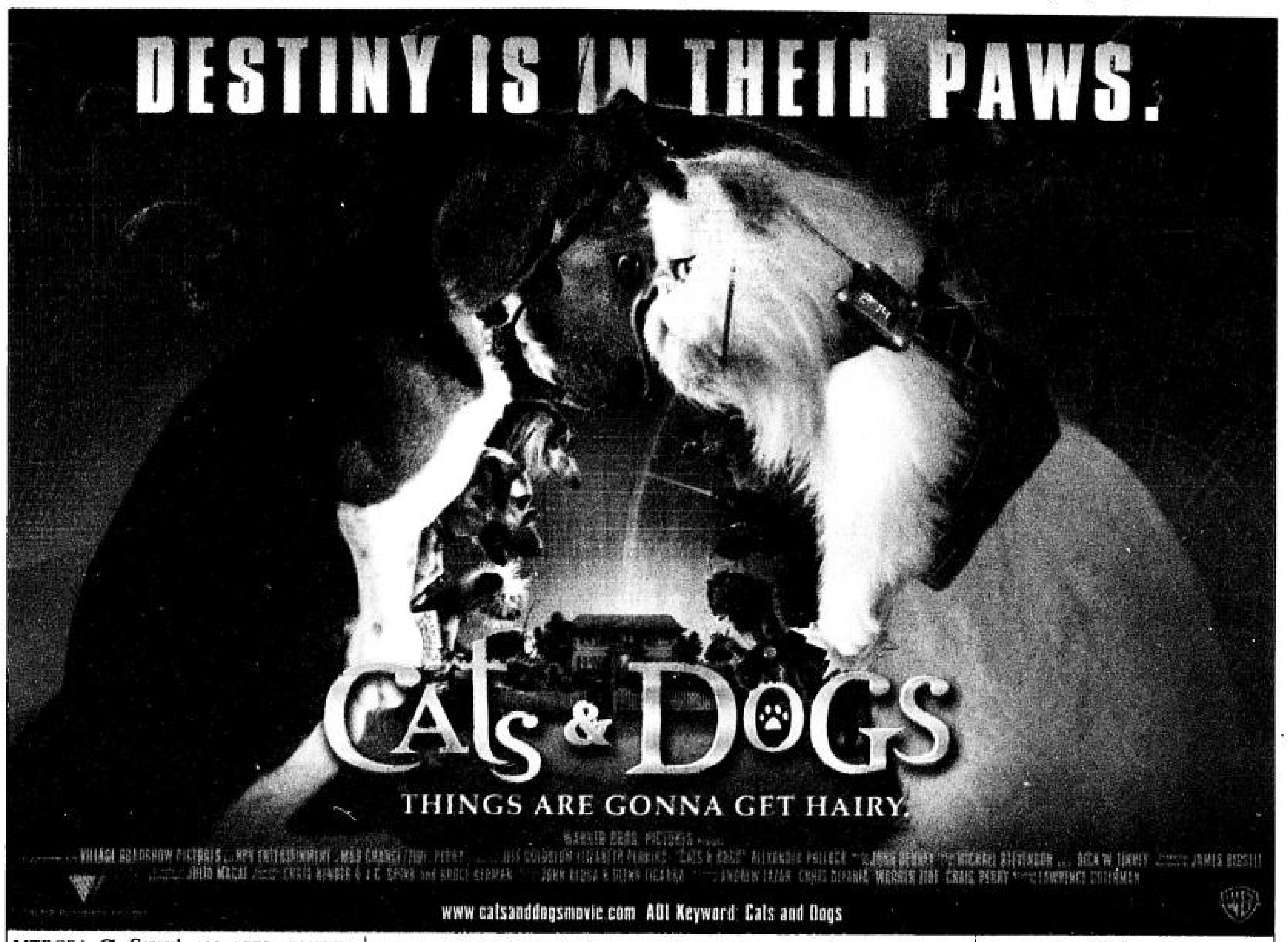
Butcher hunted for slay

POLICE are looking for a butcher suspected of stabbing to death another butcher in the Pasay City public market early yesterday morning.

SPO2 Eduardo Cabria, Pasay City police station homicide investigator, identified the victim as Pascual Datul, 31, of Tengco Street, Pasay City. Suspect Buboy Cuello escaped after the killing, police said.

Investigation showed that Datul was working at the market's meat section when Cuello came about 6:30 a.m. and demanded an explanation about Datul's alleged affair with Cuello's wife.

When Datul refused to answer, Cuello allegedly stabbed him repeatedly, police said. *Nelson F. Flores*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2 trigger-happy cops arrested

TWO trigger-happy officers of the Caloocan Police were arrested Wednesday for getting rowdy and indiscriminately firing their guns in a restaurant, police said.

Authorities are investigating SPO2 Andres Norona and SPO1 Abelardo Aurellana for misbehavior.

The policemen allegedly ran amuck after a marathon drinking session in a restaurant in Soldiers' Hills III, in Makatipo, Caloocan.

Complainants Mila Idul and Annabelle Sombrio said they tried to pacify the officers, whom they described as heavily drunk.

They said the policemen refused to behave. Aurellana allegedly drew a .38-caliber revolver and fired it once.

Members of the Police Community Precinct 12 led by Senior Insp. Virgilio Rivera heard the gunshot and went to the restaurant.

Rivera and his men disarmed Aurellana and Norona and brought them to the police station for investigation. *Christian V. Esguerra*

2 rapists get life

A CALOOCAN judge on Wednesday sentenced two workers to life imprisonment for raping a 16-year-old housemaid in 1997.

Gerry Cervantes, 31, and Jose Viray, 49, took turns in raping the maid in Deparo, Caloocan four years ago, records show.

Judge Silvestre Bello Jr. ordered the convicted rapists to pay the victim P125,000 in damages.

The maid was walking along Kabatuhan Road about 8 p.m. on June 18, 1997 when Cervantes and Viray grabbed her and took turns in raping her in a grassy portion of the road, court records showed.

Cervantes and Viray were then working at a nearby construction area.

The victim later identified them as her rapists.

In their testimonies, the two men said they could not have raped the maid since they were at the construction site at the time of the assault.

Christian V. Esguerra

Robber kills storeowner

A ROBBER stabbed to death storeowner Purificacion Narido, 69, inside her store in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

Narido, of 5 Katipunan St., Barangay Commonwealth, sustained several stab wounds in the chest and stomach. She was pronounced dead on arrival at the Malvar General Hospital.

Initial investigation showed Narido had just opened up her store when the robber barged in about 3:30 a.m. and grabbed her belt bag containing an estimated P20,000 in cash. When Narido resisted, the robber stabbed her.

Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

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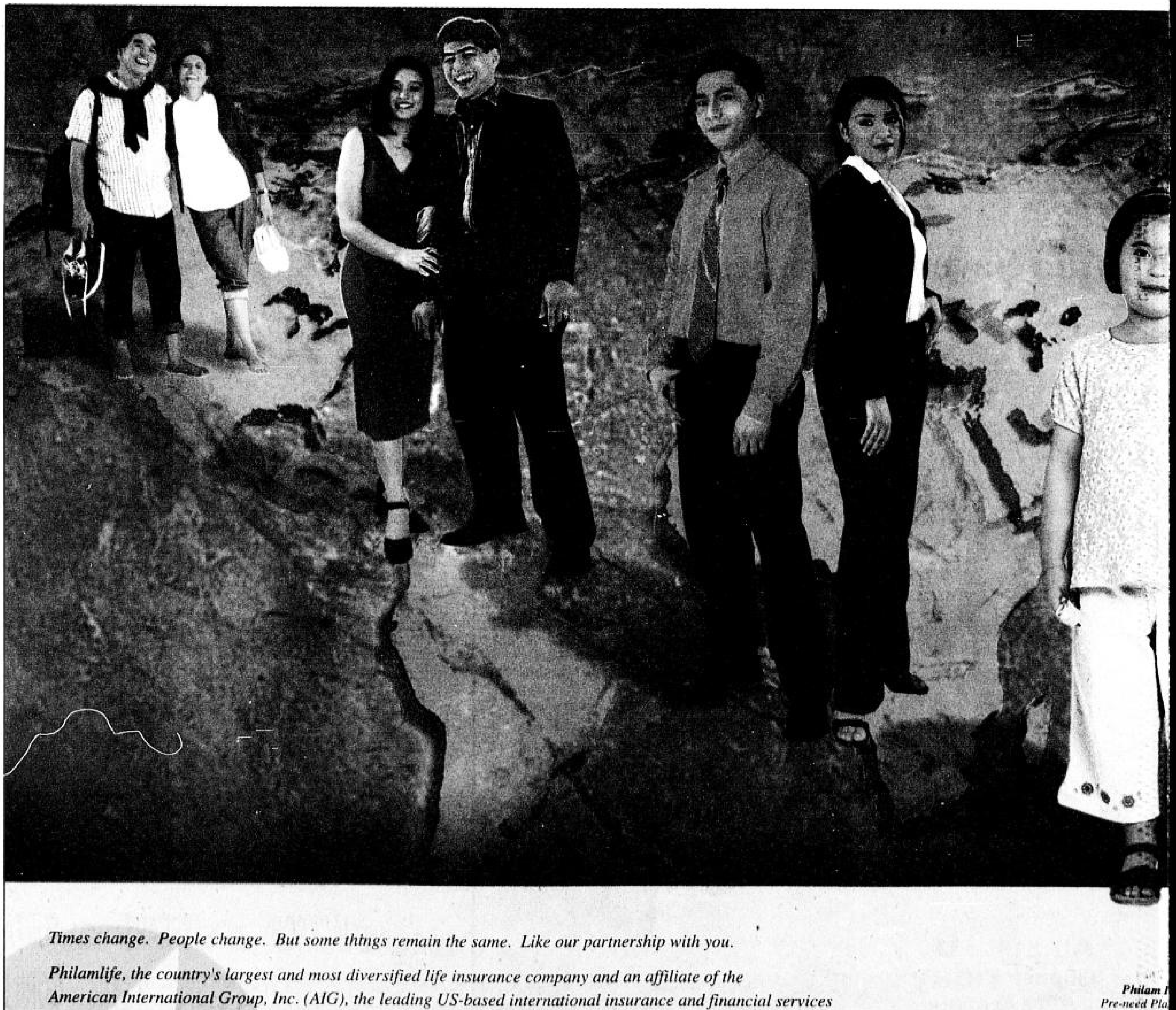

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Beer ban in Muntinlupa

THE MUNTINLUPA City council yesterday passed an ordinance prohibiting beer drinking contests and the setting up of billboards promoting beer products in the city.

Muntinlupa Vice Mayor Jo Jayson Alcuaz said the ban was passed following a finding of the city health office that excessive beer drinking causes liver cancer.

"Aside from banning the promotion of beer products and beer drinking contests, the city government would intensify its anti-beer campaign in school," Alcuaz said.

But the ban, Alcuaz said, does not include beer advertisements on television and radio since the city government has no control over them.

Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi said all nine barangays of the city have expressed support for the ordinance. *Nelson F. Flores*

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19-year-old kidnapped

By Christian V. Esguerra

THREE armed men disguised as policemen yesterday abducted a 19-year-old Filipino Chinese student in Malabon, police said.

Niño Lorenzo Pe Tobiano was kidnapped by men in police uniforms at the corner of Bagong Lote Street and Circumferential Road in Potrero, Malabon about 12:45 p.m., said Supt. Ernesto Fojas, Malabon police chief.

Tobiano is said to be the son of the owners of Progressive Poultry Supply. His family has not received any ransom demand as of presstime, Fojas said.

Tobiano was driving his maroon Honda Civic (UHD-439) when the armed men blocked his car, police said.

The armed men were on board a green Mitsubishi Lancer (BBX-851) and a gray Toyota Corolla with no license plates, Fojas said.

Tobiano, a second year veterinary medicine student, was on his way home after attending classes at the Gregorio Araneta Foundation in Malabon, police said.

Two of the suspects asked Tobiano to step out of the car claiming they came to serve an arrest warrant, investigators learned.

Fojas said one of the men, who was about 5-foot-9 tall, carried a .45-caliber pistol.

Tobiano refused to open the door of his car, police said.

The suspects, however, forcibly opened the door, dragged Tobiano out of the car and into one of their vehicles, police said.

GMA's job program hires 10,000 youths

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's emergency employment program for out-of-school, out-of-work youth kicked off yesterday as the Department of Interior and Local Government hired 10,000 urban poor youth in Metro Manila to clean up streets, rivers, esteros, canals and drainage systems and to plant trees.

"This is just the start of what President Macapagal pledged in her State of the Nation Address: to pursue a special project for the urban poor youth of Metro Manila who are neither studying or employed," Interior Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. said.

Lina personally supervised the cleaning of esteros in Barangays Calzada and Ligid-Tipaz, Taguig, where more than 750 out-of-school youths were employed.

The DILG chief said similar activities were undertaken by 4,250 youths in barangays Isla Puting Bato, Parola 1 and 2, Smokey Mountain and Baseco Compound in Manila; Comembo, Cembo, West Rembo, East Rembo, Pembo and Guadalupe Viejo in Makati; Parang, Marikina Heights and Concepcion Uno in Marikina City; and Tangos and North Bay Blvd. North in Navotas.

On August 4, another batch of 5,000 out-of-school and out-of-work youths will also benefit from the program. They will clean up barangays Bagong Silang, Camarin and Tala in Caloocan City; Payatas, Batasan Hills, North Fairview, Holy Spirit and Commonwealth in Quezon City; Taft Ave. from Baclaran to Vito Cruz in Pasay City; and Kalawaan, Pasig and Addition Hills in Mandaluyong City.

Lina explained the "Kalinga sa Kabataan" emergency employment program aims to address the needs of urban poor youth in 35 barangays in 19 depressed areas in Metro Manila.

The plan consists of an 18-week emergency employment schedule, where each youth will work for eight hours once a week for P250.

After work, some of the participating youth will be referred to the National Anti Poverty Commission for scholarship, while others will be provided with skills training and retooling for livelihood projects by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Lina also called on all SK leaders/chairmen to set aside a portion of their funds to support the emergency employment program for the youth in their areas.

Abolitionists welcome optional-ROTC proposal

By Jerome Aning

A COALITION pushing for the abolition of the Reserved Officers Training Corps yesterday welcomed moves of legislators to make it optional for students.

Abolish!, a coalition of youth groups and student bodies seeking to remove ROTC from the college curriculum, supported the bills filed by Senators Loren Legarda and Francisco Pangilinan, which will give students the right whether or not to take up the military training program.

"These moves are in tune with the students' growing clamor for the removal of this corrupt and oppressive program," said Cristina Palabay, Abolish! convenor and national president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines.

But Palabay said they are encouraging the two senators, as well as other lawmakers, to first heed the "rational demand" of the students calling for the abolition of the ROTC before making other proposals.

Abolish! cited the party-list group Bayan Muna's proposal to sponsor a priority bill that will scrap the ROTC, while presenting practical alternatives to take the place of the military program.

According to Palabay, most students prefer to take up ecological and community service programs, literacy program, relief and disaster management, human rights education and the like, because they believe these are "more productive options which will instill social responsibility and nationalism."

"The ROTC in contrast can never provide these values for the youth; we just wasted our time (engaging in) senseless training," Palabay said.

The student leader explained that military training could be offered outside the confines of academic institutions.

But she chided the defense department and the Armed Forces for their "inefficiency" in implementing the Community Welfare Service (CWS), as provided by the expanded ROTC program.

Abolish! vowed to continue protests for the abolition of the ROTC, amid reports that anti-ROTC supporters throughout the country were subjected to manhandling and harassment.

Palabay denounced the violent dispersal of anti-ROTC protesters at the University of Iloilo last Monday which, she said, only showed "the intolerance of ROTC and military officers for the exercise of freedom of expression."

Green radio program launched

FOR the first time on AM radio, dwIZ — 88.2 khz on the dial—will launch a program on the state of the Philippine environment, with a special focus on zero waste management.

"Bangon Kalikasan" will be aired starting tomorrow and every Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m. Joey Papa, columnist, Palanca Literary Awards prize-winner, environment advocate and member of the Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines Foundation Inc., will anchor the program.

Resource persons from environment groups, government agencies, the academe and other sectors will provide information, advice and on-the-air lectures on environment, ecology, and ecological waste or resource management.

For its launch, "Bangon Kalikasan" will have guests Luz Sabas, founding president of the Zero Waste Recycling Movement, Metro Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos, and Ofelia Panganiban, zero waste specialist on recycling for livelihood.

Drug suspect nabbed for wife's shooting

FIVE days after shooting dead his wife for allegedly having an illicit affair with another man, a suspected drug dependent on Tuesday was arrested in Pasig City.

Suspect Roldan Mutuc, of 38 Welfareville Compound in Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, did not resist arrest when cornered by members of the Intelligence and Investigation Division of the Eastern Police District at the house of his friend in Nagpayong, Barangay Sikat, Pasig about 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Mutuc allegedly went into hiding after shooting his wife, Virginia, once in the head about 6 p.m. Friday inside their house in Mandaluyong.

Neighbors told the police that they often hear the couple quarreling, every time Mutuc was high on drugs.

The suspect, the neighbors said, would accuse his wife, who used to work as an entertainer in Japan, of having an affair with another man.

Last Friday, the couple had another heated argument, during which Virginia suggested that they just separate, police said.

During their fight, Mutuc allegedly shot his wife who was declared dead on arrival from a gunshot wound in the head at the Mandaluyong City Medical Center.

Mutuc is now detained at the Mandaluyong police station and facing parricide charges. *Agnes E. Donato*

Repair shop robbed

By Jerome Aning

FOUR armed men burst into a container van repair shop in Tondo, Manila yesterday afternoon and stole about P400,000 in cash and jewelry.

Senior Insp. Eduardo Cruz of the Western Police District theft and robbery section said two of the men acted as if they were customers when they entered the repair shop at 350 Nepa St. in Balut, Tondo.

The two men even politely looked for the owner of the shop, who was identified as Eduardo Hernaiz, 53.

One of the employees called Hernaiz but when the shop owner appeared, the two men pulled out handguns, declared a holdup and told everyone in the shop to drop to the floor.

Employees later told police that there were two other men outside the shop apparently acting as lookouts.

The gunmen ordered the workers to open the vault of the shop, from which they took about P300,000 in cash. They also divested Hernaiz and six other employees of the shop of their wallets and jewelry, totaling about P100,000.

Before boarding their car, the four men warned the owner and the workers they would be shot if they dared to even look out of the shop.

Senior Insp. Cruz said his men have obtained descriptions of the suspects.

Mall blast hurts 1

A PAINTER was hurt in an explosion at the parking area of a mall in Muntinlupa City on Wednesday afternoon.

Police said Zosimo Pagaduar, 52, a resident of the AFP Housing Project in Taguig, sustained minor injuries in the chest and the arms and was given first aid treatment at a nearby clinic.

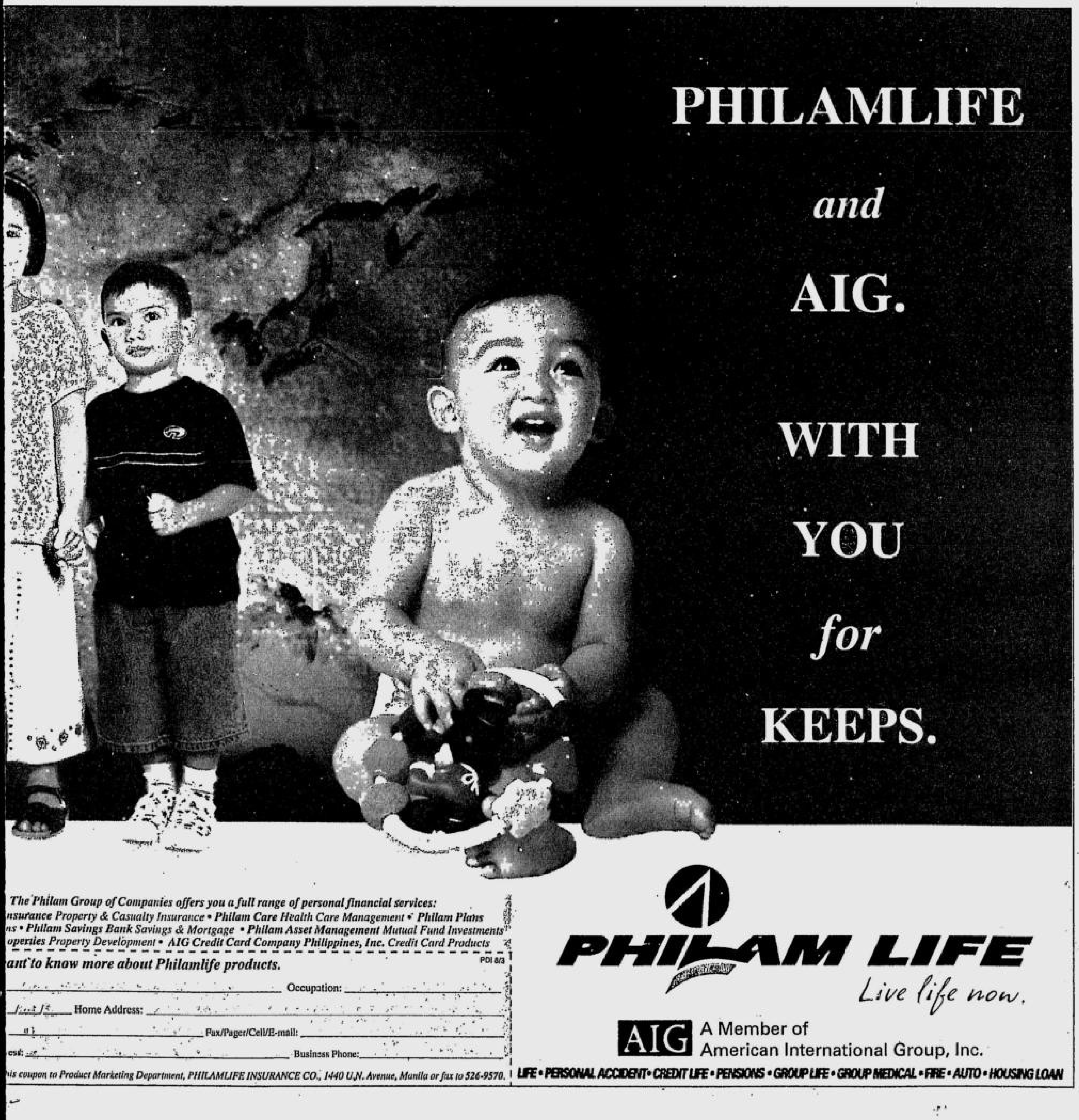
Investigators said the blast came shortly before 2 p.m. in the basement parking area of the Metropolis Star Mall in Alabang.

SPO4 Rodolfo del Rosario, Muntinlupa City police station desk officer, said members of the bomb and explosives unit of the South Police District Office investigated the incident.

The explosion did not trigger panic in the mall, he said.

Police sources said the explosion apparently was meant more to scare people than to kill so it was exploded in the basement where there were few people.

Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, SPDO director, said security at the mall must be tightened to prevent similar occurrences. *Nelson F. Flores*



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1	FINAL FANTASY
2	SWORD FISH
3	JURASSIC PARK 3
4	KISS OF THE DRAGON
5	MOULIN ROUGE
6	RED DIARIES
7	JURASSIC PARK 3
8	CATS & DOGS
9	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
10	TOMB RAIDER
11	TURN ON
12	DR. DOLITTLE 2

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12	JURASSIC PARK 3

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4	CATS & DOGS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
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7	JURASSIC PARK 3
8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
9	DR. DOLITTLE 2
10	RED DIARIES
11	FINAL FANTASY
12	TOM CATS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

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3	KISS OF THE DRAGON
4	CATS & DOGS
5	FINAL FANTASY
6	DR. DOLITTLE 2
7	RED DIARIES
8	JURASSIC PARK 3
9	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
10	TURN ON

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8820903

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2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	JURASSIC PARK 3

SM CEBU
2313878

1	MOULIN ROUGE
2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
3	THEY NEST
4	TOM CATS
5	MAHAL KITA . . .
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7	JURASSIC PARK 3

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2	CLOSED
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	DRIVEN
6	FINAL FANTASY
7	CLOSED
8	PARU PARONG LIGAW

SM PAMPANGA
7128015

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	DRIVEN
5	JURASSIC PARK 3
6	RED DIARIES

SM SUCAT
8294875

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2	CATS & DOGS
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4	RED DIARIES

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2	JURASSIC PARK 3	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
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4	THE TAO OF STEVE (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	RED DIARIES	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	KISS OF THE DRAGON	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	MOULIN ROUGE	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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5 GOLD (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
6 GOLD (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
8 [illegible]	RED DIARIES
9 [illegible]	SWORD FISH
10 [illegible]	CATS & DOGS

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2	
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5	
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3	RED DIARIES
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5	PARU PARONG LIGAW

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5	CATS & DOGS
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7	KISS OF THE DRAGON
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2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	KISS OF THE DRAGON

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(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

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3	JURASSIC PARK 3
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7 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
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Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

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3	CATS & DOGS
4 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
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6 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
7 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

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2	RED DIARIES
3	KISS OF THE DRAGON
4	RESERVE
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6	CATS & DOGS
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8	RESERVE

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4	CATS & DOGS
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4	RED DIARIES

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4	KISS OF THE DRAGON
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2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	CATS & DOGS
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	JURASSIC PARK 3

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA
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3	JURASSIC PARK 3

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2	KISS OF THE DRAGON

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 (DTS)	RED DIARIES
3 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
4	JURASSIC PARK 3

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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2 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
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4	JURASSIC PARK 3

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Lianas Cinema
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2	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
3	RED DIARIES
4 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	RED DIARIES
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
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5	UNANG TIBOK

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2	RED DIARIES
3	MOULIN ROUGE

Olivarez Los Baños
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1	KISS OF THE DRAGON
2	RED DIARIES
3	MOULIN ROUGE

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2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	PARU PARONG LIGAW

Morales Cinema
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2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	RED DIARIES

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

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2 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

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(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

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3	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Fiesta World Mall
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3	TOM CATS
4	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT

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5	RED DIARIES
6	CATS & DOGS
7	JURASSIC PARK 3

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2	SOON TO OPEN
3	RED DIARIES
4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	KISS OF THE DRAGON
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4	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	MOULIN ROUGE
6	RED DIARIES

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	CATS & DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MOULIN ROUGE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	RED DIARIES
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
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ODEON	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ODEON-2	JURASSIC PARK 3
ROBEN	AMORSEKO
TANDEM-1	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-2	HILIG NG KATAWAN
TIMES	MUMMY RETURN / ME, MYSELF & IRENE
QUEZON CITY	
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
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QUEZON-1	PARU PARONG LIGAW
REMAR	KISS OF THE DRAGON
REMAR-2	PANINDA
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OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
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CINEMA-2	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-3	TOM CATS
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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-7	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-8	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-12	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-14	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-15	RED DIARIES
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
CINEMA-2	CATS & DOGS
CINEMA-3	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-4	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-5	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-6	MOULIN ROUGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
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MISALUCHA

Lani performs in Cebu

LANI Misalucha headlines this year's "Crossover Live" tour which kicks off in Cebu on Aug. 4, Saturday, at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City.

Lani will be joined by two special guests in the show—Side A band lead vocalist Joey Generoso and upcoming singer Malik.

Lani follows in the footsteps of Martin Nievera, who did "XVII" in 1999 and "XVIII: The Aftershock," and Jaya, who did "Jaya: On Fire" last year.

Lani's show will be directed by Rowell Santiago, with Louie Ocampo as musical director. It is presented by 93.1 Crossover (dyWF-FM) Cebu.

The Cebu show will be followed by a major concert in Manila which is the culminating event of very "Crossover Live" tour.

Lani will hold a show on Sept. 8 at the Araneta Coliseum. She will also be joined by Joey G and Malik, as well as concert king Martin Nievera, who will be her special guest.

"Lani Misalucha: The Crossover Live Tour" is represented by 105.1 Crossover (dwBM-FM) Manila. Co-presentors are New Lactum Plus, Creamsilk Conditioner and Globe Handyphone (Manila).

Major sponsors are Ford Lynx, Bankard Mastercard, Café Puro Jade Blend, Philip Morris Lights, Don Henrico's, Mossimo, No Drowse Decolgen, Dolfenal 250 and Wendy's Hamburgers (Manila).

Ticket prices for the Cebu show are P800, P500 and P300. Tickets are available at 93.1 Crossover, Ayala Center, Waterfront Hotel Lahug lobby, Dunkin Donuts, Nautica Travel and Tours, Jukebox Resto Bar, SM City and Quickly (Country Mall).

For the Manila show, tickets are priced at P1,000, P600, P400, P200 and P75 (general admission), available at all SM Ticketnet, Araneta Coliseum Ticketnet office and Primeline Inc. (897-6172 or 897-6170).

For more details, visit www.crossover.com.ph

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Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

What I will give up for love

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

WHAT'S in a name?

I had a colorful conversation about this topic after "The Buzz" aired on Sunday. **Karen Davila** was at No. 2 in our Top 10 weekly show biz countdown. She had just tied the knot in an intimate Christian ceremony in Hong Kong with her longtime boyfriend **DJ Sta. Ana** and she, straight from her Amanpulo honeymoon, kindly submitted to an interview with **Boy Abunda** and me.

When I had asked her if she'd now be known as Karen Sta. Ana, she said that professionally she was holding on to Davila.

Karen threw the question back at me, and I said that "when I do get married, I swear to drop Aquino and carry my husband's last name, in all aspects of my life."

My executive producer and some of my writers asked me if I was serious about not using Aquino anymore after I get married. I don't even have a boyfriend at present so this issue won't be cropping up anytime soon, but yes, in this age of feminism, I would willingly relinquish my last name and happily carry my husband's name. I even said that I wouldn't bother asking for a compromise such as using Aquino hyphenated onto whatever his last name would be.

Practical reasons

My reasons are quite practical. If and when I do make a lifetime commitment, part of that is surrendering a lot of my considerable ego in favor of my partner's. It's difficult enough to be in a relationship with someone in a high-profile job such as mine, why make it harder for him?

The first step is to accept that he's the man, the head of our family, hence I'm at ease subverting myself to him.

Secondly, I'd want us to adopt **Josh**. Since Josh does carry Aquino at present, when he's legally adopted and starts carrying his stepdad's name, so will I, out of solidarity and in gratitude for the man's acceptance of my son.

Lastly, it's my wish to have at least one more child (I'm a planner, I've already picked the name **Jakob** if he's a boy, and **Madison** if she's a girl) and I'd like all of us to be united under just one family name.

When the time comes, all of you who read this article can hold me to my promise.

Unfair expectation

I was asked how much I'd be willing to give up for the man I'd marry. If my would-be husband was an extremely private person and would prefer me to give up my career, would I be willing to do just that?

I protested that it was so unfair that women are expected to sacrifice what they've given half their lives to building up. Men are never asked if they're willing to give up their career for the woman they love.

But, granted that he was successful enough to provide me a comfortable life, and he wouldn't resent shouldering Josh's education and living expenses, then I would leave the limelight, if it would mean our long-term happiness.

I can never imagine myself staying home and not working, but I'd welcome going into retail or a food business, or I can go to law school and fulfill my mom's wish to have a lawyer in the family.

Louie, my executive producer who's been with me since the onset of "Today with Kris Aquino" five years ago, was shocked at my answer. In the past, I had always said an emphatic "no way."

He knew that my career as a talk show host was the one aspect of my life that gives me so much satisfaction. Whatever success I've had is because of my personal hard work and dedication. This has always been non-negotiable.

Not forever

In a way, for the past two and a half years that I've been single again, my staff has had no problem with my schedule because they know that they own my time. My work is my main priority, and my tapings dictate my weekly calendar. All the good that has occurred in my career has really been the outcome of 100 percent devotion.

I explained to them that as much as I love doing "Kris and Tell" and "The Buzz," those shows aren't forever. They're as good as the yearly ABS-CBN contracts I sign.

In a way, judging my self-worth by the weekly ratings can have an unhealthy long-term effect on my wellbeing. However, ideally a marriage contract is something I'd sign with the intention of being true to it until my death.

If my career gave me a high but living under a microscope made my husband uncomfortable and miserable, and ultimately it would lead to the breakdown of our marriage, then what would the whole point be? As **Ricky Lo** stated last week in his column, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

I've taken all the burns because I love what I do, but if someone I love gets scorched just because of his proximity to me, then I should take it upon myself to remove myself from the line of fire.

Sharing glory

They say marriage succeeds when you don't count the costs of what you invest to making it work. From what I've seen, the unions that have lasted have been the ones where one partner gave way and allowed the other's star to shine brighter.

Hard as it maybe for you to believe, when I do get married, I'll be more than happy to just share in my man's reflected glory.

I'm sure that when my mom reads this she'll also have a hard time believing the words I've espoused. I am my father's daughter in many aspects. But when it comes to my outlook on married life, I realize that if I want a successful union, then I have to look upon my mom's loyalty, supportiveness and infinite capacity to love and understand my dad, without reserve nor regrets, as my model. Maybe then I'll be blessed with a partner as exceptional as my dad.

The animals have it

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DON'T look now, but the animals are taking over the film scene this week, with the biggest gross earnings ($68M) being made by the new "Planet of the Apes" flick, and the runner-up slot going to the dinosaur films, "Jurrassic Park 3" ($22.5 M).

There's more: In sixth place is "Dr. Dolittle 2," with its veritable menagerie of cute or pesky critters, "Cats and Dogs" is in seventh, and the cartoon feature, "Shrek," with its donkey and other animated animals, is in 10th place!

Imagine, five of the week's 10 top movies feature animals as important attractions.—Do you think they're trying to tell us something?

Uncredited cameo role

INCIDENTALLY, when the new "Planet of the Apes" finally plays in town, try to play the "spot **Charlton Heston**" game. Yes, many people still don't know it, but the star of the original "Planet" movie is also in the new film, playing an ape in an uncredited cameo role.

In the original film, Heston was cast as an astronut who landed on a planet ruled by apes. In the 2001 production, his role has been taken over by **Mark Wahlberg**.

'Divas . . . And All That Jazz'

THIS MONTH, City Lite 88.3 has come up with another first, a series of concerts featuring some of the country's best young female vocalists.

At 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug 8. **Ana Fegi** and **Lynn Sherman** team up for the jazz show titled "Divas . . . And All That Jazz" at Onstage Greenbelt. Call the City Lite 88.3 hotline, 631-8803.

Fegi is regarded as one of the most promising belters in the business, while Sherman fronts for the jazz-punk group, Ugoy Ugoy.

Among other songs, Fegi will interpret numbers associated with other singers, like **Barbra Streisand**'s "Evergreen" and **Julia Fordham**'s "Love Moves In Mysterious Ways."

For her part, Sherman will render The Corrs' "Runaway" and "Dreams" and other jazz, and rhythm and blues numbers. Show sponsors include Pacific Internet, Nestle Drumstick and Bankard.

Campus tour

MTV Philippines presents the Pepsi Live Campus Tour of Manila schools, starting today, Aug. 3 at the Ateneo de Manila University's College Covered Courts. On Aug. 10, the tour hits UP at the Bahay ng Alumni; Aug. 17, Assumption College; and Aug. 31, St. Benedict's College.

Performers include Eraserheads, Parokya ni Edgar, True Faith, Barbie's Cradle, Rivermaya and Passage. MTV Philippines is on Channel 41 for free TV, and Channel 32 for SkyCable subcribers.

MTV Video Music Awards

AT noon today, MTV Morning TV and Nescafé Frothé are winding up their contest for people who want to vie for the chance to watch the MTV Video Music Awards in New York this September. Contestants have sent in wacky one-minute videos showing why they should be picked for the trip to the Big Apple.

'Kanser'

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation's new staging of "Kanser" stars **Richard Quan** as Crisostomo Ibarra, **Adriano Agcaoili** as Maria Clara, **Dido de la Paz** as Tasyo, **Sheila Lopez** as Sisa, and **Niño Volante** as the singer-narrator.

Performances: 2 p.m. today, Aug 4 and on Aug. 5 at the Jaime Cardinal Sin Theater of Paco Catholic School. Aug. 10 and 11 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the AFP Theater at Camp Aguinaldo. Aug. 24 and 25 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the AFP Theater at Camp Aguinaldo. Aug. 24 and 25 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the renovated RFC Theater/Cinema in Las Piñas. Call 899-5745.

Feedback

FROM **Judy P. Bringas** of Pasay City: "**KC Concepcion** is a fresh face and a good singer who does her mother, **Sharon Cuneta**, proud. But I don't understnd why Sharon appears to be hesitant to let her daughter go into show business.

"It's true, she's been burned in the past, but with her guidance, KC can avoid the pitfalls. To start with, KC should make herself more visible in her mother's weekly TV show."

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

1	2	3
ALONG CAME A SPIDER - P13 11:30, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10	CATS & DOGS - GP 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	JURASSIC PARK 3 - P13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20
KISS OF THE DRAGON - R 18 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	JURASSIC PARK 3 - P 13 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20	MOULIN ROUGE - R 18 11:00, 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

Gary V holds one-night Davao concert

ONE OF the most successful concert series this year was Gary Valenciano's "Gary V: By Request."

For several weekends, Gary treated his fans to a unique concert experience where he sang their favorite songs.

On Aug. 4, Davaoeños will get their turn to experience the Gary V magic when he goes down south for a special one-night concert. "Gary V: By Request . . . Live in Davao" goes onstage Saturday, Aug. 4, 7 p.m. at Davao City's The Venue.

A production of Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management Inc. as a benefit for the Bantay Bata 163 Davao, Gary's concert will feature the pop idol side by side with his favorite all-male dance group, The Manoeuvres, and the Powerplay Band.

The Davao show will be a homecoming celebration for Gary, who recently arrived from a successful concert tour of the United States. Gary did well-received shows in nine US cities, including Reno in Nevada, Sacaramento, San Diego and San Jose in California; Houston in Texas and Chicago in Illinois.

Gary will soon release a repackaged version of "Revive," featuring the follow-up single, "Lupa," a Charo Unite composition originally popularized by Rico J. Puno.

Gary will also release a special MTV of "I Will Be Here," directed by Boom Dayupay of Kulay. Boom will also direct the forthcoming MTV release of "Lupa."

After the Davao show, Gary flies back to Manila for a series of shows.

He will appear on GMA's Sunday noontime show, "SOP," on Aug. 5 for his birthday celebration.

Then he kicks off his national tour with stops at the University of Nueva Caceres in Naga City on Sept. 7, De La Salle Gym in Bacolod City on Oct. 5 and University of Baguio in Baguio City on Oct. 20.

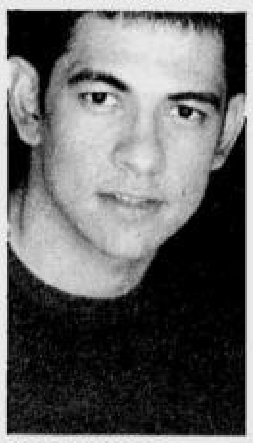
Gary will also visit places like Pampanga, Dumaguete, Iloilo City and Lucena City.

He will do a special show on Sept. 28 at Limits, sponsored by the Jubilee Evangelical Church, with MTV Asia VJ Donita Rose as special guest.

Concept and direction of "Gary V: By Request . . . Live in Davao" are by Gary. Musical director is Mon Faustino.

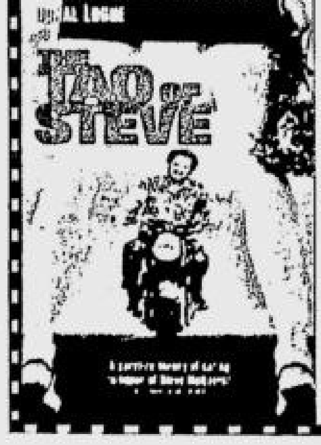
The show is sponsored by Max's Restaurant in Davao, with Gaisano Mall of Davao and Island Express Grill.

It is also presented by Coca-Cola and Sunstar Davao.



VALENCIANO

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
THE PRODUCING TEAM OF 'BIG DADDY' DELIVERS ANOTHER WINNER!
"THE COMEDY HIT OF THE SUMMER!" SHAWN EDWARDS, FOX-TV
THE ANIMAL
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
MEDIATRIP.COM/THEANIMAL
Schneider, 'ANIMAL': Hayop sa katatawanan
Rob Schneider, lovable Filipino star of the comedy hit DEUCE BIGALOW MALE GIGOLO is back, funnier than ever in Columbia Pictures' THE ANIMAL.
As Marvin Mange, he has the strength of a lion, the agility of a chimpanzee and the affections of... a goat?
Thanks to a life-saving experimental surgery that fuses his body with animal parts, Marvin's dreams of becoming a cop like his dad come true. Armed with new bulging muscles and a keen sense of smell, he even becomes a police hero, as he saves a drowning boy and sniffs out drug smugglers at the airport.
But complications arise when he starts falling for Rianna (Colleen Haskell, *Survivor*), an animal shelter volunteer. Will he finally be able to control his beastly ways with the woman he loves?
OPENS AUG. 8!



AYALA CINEMAS
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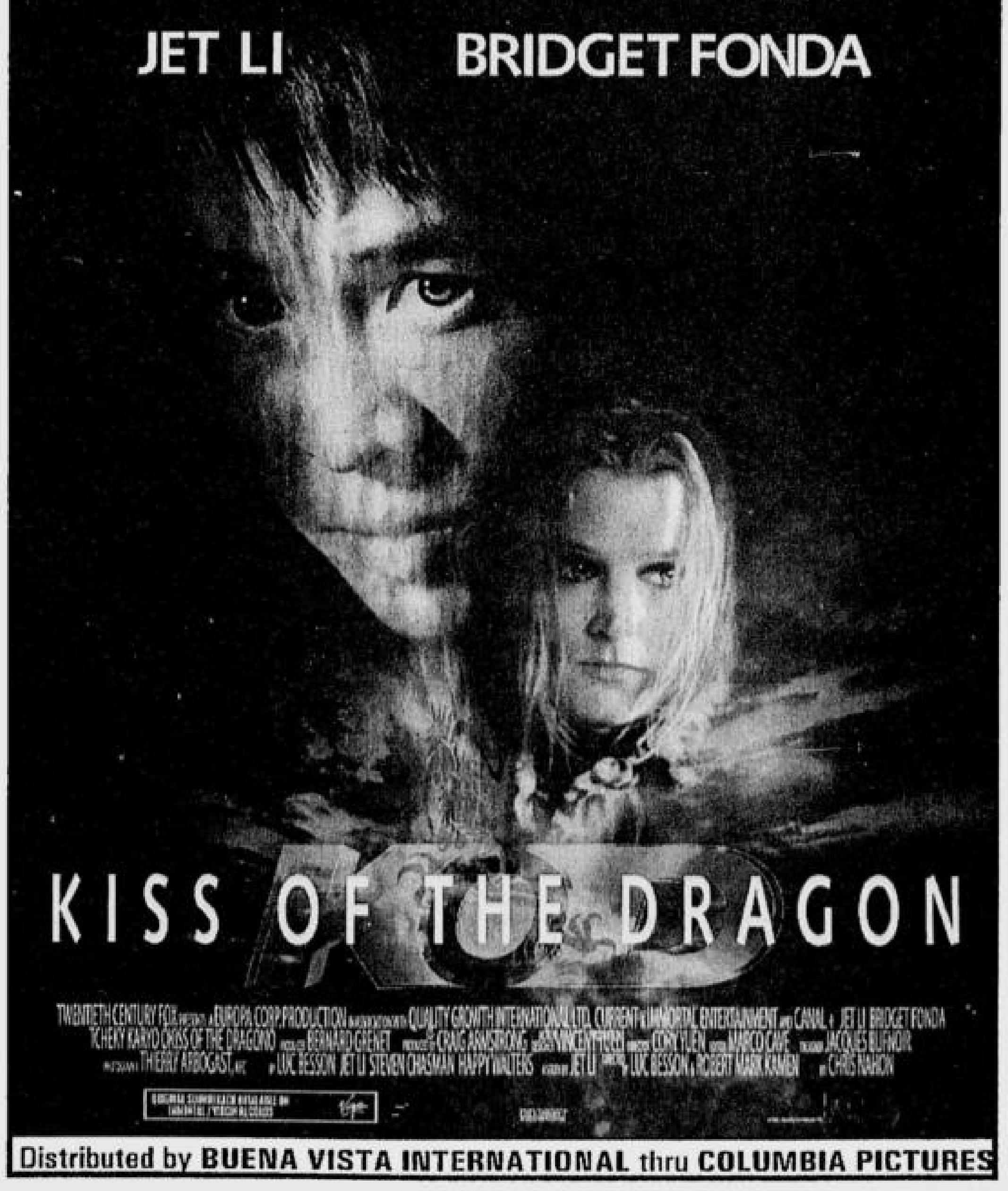
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
Why do women find this man so irressistable?
THE TAO OF STEVE
Dex (Donal Logue) is a lovable kindergarten teacher who has extraordinary success with women, and a sexual appetite to match. Women go crazy for him, and men admire his finely-tuned romantic philosophy. The only woman who is not wooed by his charms is Syd (Greer Goodman), an old college friend. THE TAO OF STEVE is a light and spunky romantic comedy directed by Jenniphr Goodman.The film, and Logue's role in it, got the Outstanding Performance Special Jury Prize at Sundance 2000.
"ONE OF THE MOST PLEASURABLE FILMS AT SUNDANCE & ONE OF THE MOST DISARMING ROMANTIC COMEDIES I'VE SEEN IN YEARS."
-Glenn Kenny, PREMIERE
"HILARIOUS & HEARTFELT! DONAL LOGUE'S KNOCKOUT PERFORMANCE SHOULD MAKE HIM A STAR."
-Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE
"A WONDERFULLY WITTY ROMANTIC COMEDY THAT HAS BOTH CRITICS & AUDIENCES RAVING!"
-JonathanForeman, NEW YORK POST



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To invite friends to join, key in **INVITE** <your'friends' numbers> and send to 239. You can invite up to 3 friends at one time.

To receive more information on different commands, key in **HELP** <command> and send to 239.

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(Available on Nokia 3310, 3330, and 8250 handsets only.)

*Available on selected Nokia handsets only.

In cooperation with:

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Promo Mechanics:

1. All Smart Gold and Buddy subscribers registered with the Smart Cinema Club on or before August 7 are eligible to win 2 tickets to the advance screening of Planet of the Apes on August 12, 2001, 8:00 p.m., at the Robinsons Galleria Movieworld
2. All Smart Money cardholders can also win free tickets by simply using their card to make a minimum purchase of ₱100.00 from Aug. 1 - 7, 2001.
3. Draw date will be on August 8, 2001. Winners will be notified by text message and a call to their registered mobile number.
4. Winners can claim their tickets at the DDB Phils. office, 9/F Legaspi Suites, Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City starting August 8, 2001. Or at the Smart Cinema Club Booth at the Robinsons Galleria Cinema on August 12, 2001.
5. Promo is for the Greater Metro Manila area only.

See flyers for details.

All text messages sent will be charged ₱2.50 each.
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Slump in June exports lowest since '70s

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE GLOBAL economic slowdown led to a 24.7-percent drop in the country's export earnings in June, the fifth straight month of decline and the worst annual contraction recorded since the 1970s.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) said June exports amounted to $2.57 billion against $3.41 billion in June 2000 when demand for electronic components, the country's top dollar earner, was buoyant.

January-June exports came in at $15.98 billion, down 9.3 percent from $17.62 billion in the same period last year, the NSO said.

The June figures make it unlikely the country will achieve a government target to maintain exports at $38.1 billion this year, the same as in 2000.

June's export figures also represented a modest 1.22-percent fall from May, further indicating the annual dip was accentuated by last year's high base.

Shipments of electronics in June grew 1.18 percent over May, but fell 39.27 percent from June 2000, the NSO said.

Electronic components made up 52.7 percent of all exports in June. The next biggest item, clothing and apparel, accounted for 8.1 percent of shipments and fell 9.1 percent from last year, it said.

The biggest market for Philippine goods in June remained the United States, accounting for 29.3 percent of shipments. Japan and the Netherlands followed.

Song Seng Wun, an economist at GK Goh in Singapore, said: "(The June decline) shouldn't come as a surprise because we really do have a very high base which the number came from, on a year-on-year basis. In June of last year, we had export growth of 19.4 percent, which was the highest year-on-year growth in 2000," Song said.

"This one is probably about the worst, in terms of the year(-on-year) contraction we are seeing this year."

Abacus Securities economist Emilio Neri Jr. said the continued contraction in export earnings was not surprising amid the weak demand from the global markets. However, he said he hoped that the country's external position would remain manageable because receipts from the export of services, especially for information technology-related activities, continued to provide a strong influx of dollars.

Neri said investors would have to discount any positive turnaround in export performance this year given the continuing global slowdown. He noted that even Singapore has itself fallen into a recession.

"This will force us to diversify into other areas. I suppose we'd have to look at other items to export and not stay heavily dependent on electronics," Neri said.

Luz Lorenzo, research head at ATR Kim Eng Securities, said: "This is all dependent on external demand, so there's not much you can do about it . . . Maybe we will see a few more months of decline before any improvement."

An appropriate response by the government to a bleak number like this would be to stimulate domestic demand as the country was not overly leveraged on exports, she said.

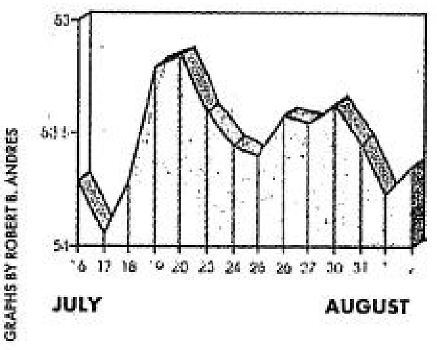
"But the way things stand, that's not likely to happen this year because of all the events that have taken place so far, dominated by the political events, which have not increased confidence very much," she said.

"It is a cyclical downturn (in the electronics industry) and at some point, it'll pick up. What one has to do is to prepare for the recovery when it comes," Lorenzo said. *With Inquirer wire reports*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

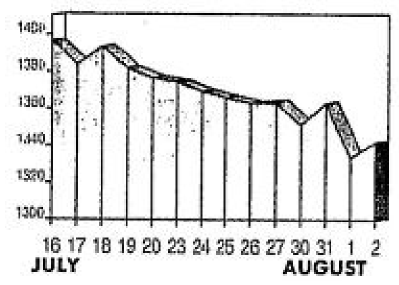
P53.645 = $1
As of 5 p.m., August 2, 2001

¥124.26 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 124.26 as of 5 p.m., August 2, 2001

GOLD:$268.20/268.70
per ounce Hong Kong, August 2, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares rise 0.6%

SHARES rose 0.6 percent yesterday in a technical rebound following sharp losses, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 7.85 points to close at 1,341.56.

"There was some bargain hunting after the big drop yesterday," said Jose Ricardo Garcia of Diversified Securities Inc., referring to the 2.1-percent fall of the index to a nine-month low on Wednesday.

Volume turnover rose to 666.97 million shares worth P472.15 million from 398 million shares worth P373 million the previous day.

AFP

BAP cuts dollar buying limit

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines (BAP) said yesterday it had lowered the dollar overbought limit of all its 45 commercial bank members to $5 million from the current $10 million, effective immediately.

The measure, a voluntary one, is aimed at injecting an additional supply of dollars into the market to correct the dollar demand-supply imbalance that has put pressure on the peso in recent weeks, BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel told Reuters.

"It's a voluntary reduction on the (dollar) overbought position. The central bank will help us monitor that, we are just counting on everybody's trustworthiness here," Coronel said.

"It is really to inject dollar supply. There's really a supply of dollars. Hopefully that will be a strong statement to speculators."

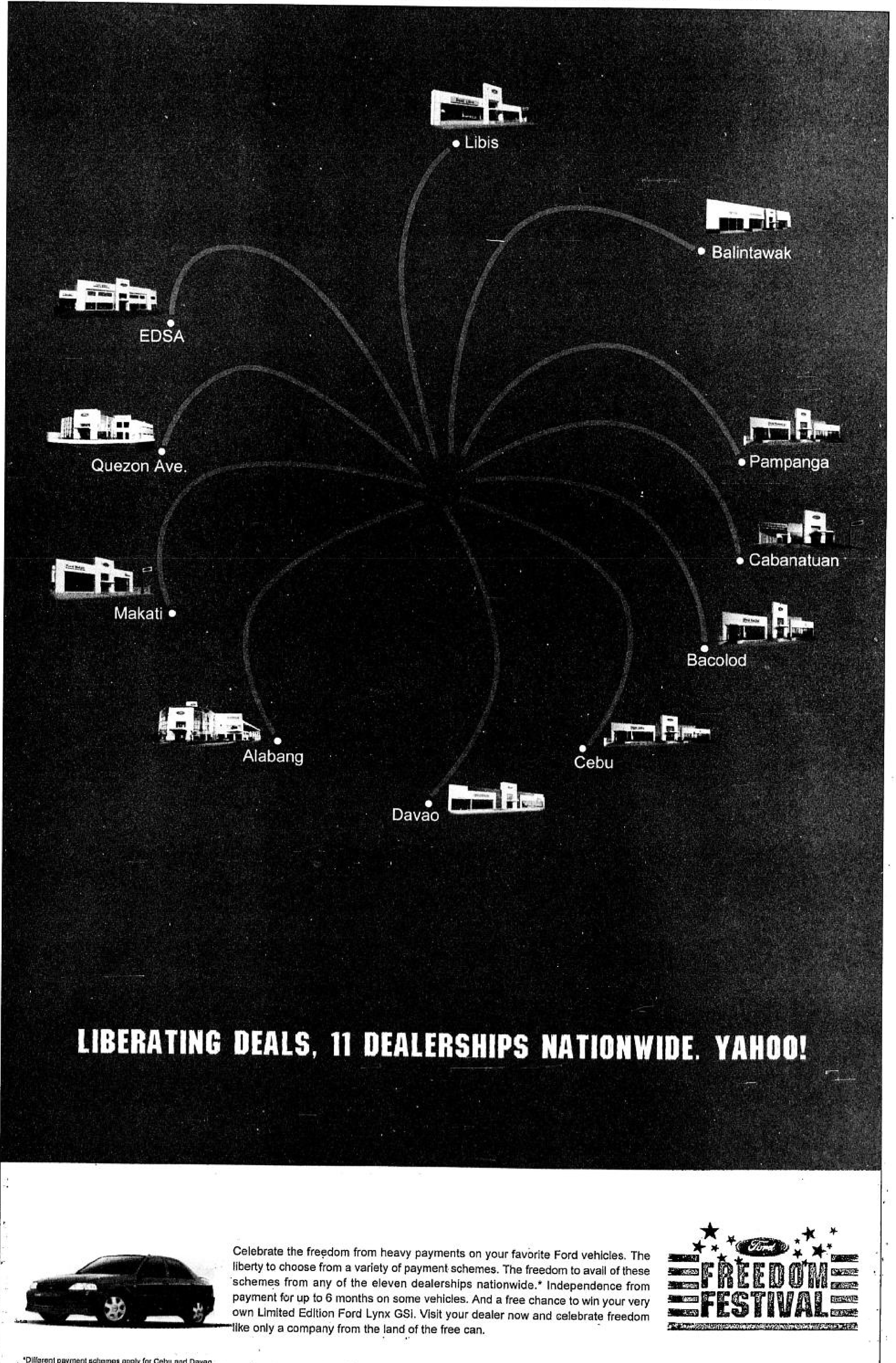
"It was an idea that came from the bank treasurers. We would like to correct the misconception that the banks are the main culprit in the speculative activity," Coronel added.

The dollar overbought limit is the maximum net dollar position banks are allowed to hold. The cap covers the total internal dollar position of a bank and its clients, Johnny Noe Ravalo, BAP chief economist, told Reuters.

In a separate interview, the industry group expects that at least $70 million will be released as additional supply in the spot market with the measure.

The BAP said it would conduct a regular review on how long it would maintain the lower dollar overbought limit among its members.

Reuters



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See tent card for details.

Local execs acquiring RP unit of Merrill Lynch

By Doris C. Dumlao

US-BASED investment house Merrill Lynch yesterday said it was selling its Philippine brokerage unit to the company's local management team.

The management team vowed to continue the operations of Merrill Lynch Securities Philippines Inc., unlike other foreign brokerage houses that had suspended operations amid the continuing slump in the local stock market.

In a statement yesterday, Merrill Lynch said it had accepted an offer from the management team to buy the local brokerage operation. The company will thus become an independent local brokerage house to be named Philippine Equity Partners Securities Inc.

The statement said the management group, led by former nominee Jojo Madrid, who serves as head of sales, and Jojo Gonzales, head of strategy and economics, will continue to conduct both research and dealing in Philippine securities.

"Merrill Lynch's operation in Manila has become the country's most respected firm in the local financial markets, and we are fully committed to ensuring that its high standards and reputation for world-class research and execution are maintained," Madrid said.

The local unit of Merrill Lynch, which started operations in 1997, is the Philippine Stock Exchange's top broker this year in terms of volume participation. It has been named as the country's top research house for the past two years by Institutional Investor magazine.

Merrill Lynch still intends to use Philippine Equity Partners, which will become an independent company, as its exclusive broker for executing transactions on the PSE.

Merrill Lynch head of Asia Pacific Region Equity Markets Anthony Stalker said: "This transaction will enable Merrill Lynch to continue to provide the highest level of securities services to its international client base. It also enables local management to participate more directly in the future successes of the operations."

In a separate interview, PSE president Ramon T. Garcia, who met with Merrill Lynch officials Wednesday night said he was glad that such an approach was adopted instead of having another brokerage house shutting down operations.

Garcia said the same strategy was adopted a few years ago by other local groups when their foreign principals decided to leave the country.

So far, seven foreign and four local brokerage houses have decided to suspend trading operations. The casualties of the shakeout were mostly foreign-owned units because they have been incurring higher overhead costs. These were BNP Paribas, Securities 2000, UOB Securities, Nomura Securities, Orion Squire Capital Inc., OCBC Securities and most recently, Citicorp Securities International (RP) Inc.

SMC posts 10% rise in profits

PROFITS from new acquisitions boosted the net income of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. P3.8 billion in the first half of the year, 10 percent more than the year-ago level.

In a statement yesterday, SMC said that the group's consolidated sales rose by 35 percent to P57.3 billion as contributions from newly acquired Pure Foods Corp. and Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. have started coming in during the second quarter.

Pure Foods and CCBPI pumped in P190 million and P231 million, respectively, in profits into the group in the first half of the year.

Hard liquor unit La Tondeña Distillers Inc., for its part, posted a net income of P662 million in the first half, 17 percent down from year-ago level. The contraction in profits was attributed to a 47-percent rise in the company's interest expenses arising from the acquisition of powdered juice and water gel manufacturer Sugarland Multi-Foods Inc., which was renamed Sugarland Beverage Corp.

SMC said it posted revenue growth across all businesses during the period: 18 percent for food, 6 percent in beverage and 5 percent in packaging.

"The synergies drawn from the full integration of all of San Miguel's operations are expected to become more evident in the coming months as the company further rationalizes its marketing and distribution systems," the statement said.

With the consolidation of Pure Food's operations, SMC now accounts for 74 percent of the country's hotdog market, 24 percent of canned meats, 40 percent of poultry, 32 percent of feeds and 17 percent of flour milling.

SMC's beer operations, the conglomerate's core business, posted an operating income of P2.53 billion, slightly higher than last year's P2.5 billion.

Meanwhile, SMC reported a turnaround into profitability of its international beer business. This segment generated $282,000 in the first half, representing a 238 percent improvement from an operating loss of $204,000 the same period last year.

Tasmania-based premium brewer J. Boag continued its strong performance with an operating income contribution of $1.6 million.

San Miguel Packaging Products registered sales revenues of P7.4 billion, up by 5 percent from last year's P7.1 billion, boosted by the growth of paper and two-piece can packaging operations..

CURRENCIES

August 2, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.133915	1.000000	53.7440
Japan	Yen	0.009103	0.008028	0.4315
United Kingdom	Pound	1.627169	1.435000	77.1226
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145382	0.128212	6.8906
Switzerland	Franc	0.662141	0.583942	31.3834
Canada	Dollar	0.738130	0.650957	34.9850
Singapore	Dollar	0.628730	0.554477	29.7998
Australia	Dollar	0.584191	0.515198	27.6888
Bahrain	Dinar	3.007893	2.652661	142.5646
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302386	0.266674	14.3321
Brunei	Dollar	0.627339	0.553250	29.7339
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000118	0.000104	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024807	0.021877	1.1758
UAE	Dirham	0.308800	0.272331	14.6362
Korea	Won	0.000881	0.000777	0.0418
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.881900	47.3968
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.450908	24.2336
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134445	7.2256
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.400189	21.5078
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064090	3.4445
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021862	1.1750
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000455	0.0245
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148325	7.9716
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004399	0.2364
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.0053	0.2848
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021862	1.1750
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.119782	60.1816

gning c oranda of Ag t
for the
Projects
MINDORO

ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM

Energy Secretary Vincent S. Perez Jr. congratulates Marce Fuller, president and CEO of US-based Mirant Corp., following the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement on a project to light up 53 barangays in Mindoro. This will be implemented under the "O-Ilaw" electrification program of the Department of Energy. Earlier, Perez promised to energize 1,500 barangays by the end of June 2002. In the first six months of 2001, a total of 572 barangays were energized.

DISCLOSURES

GLOBE Telecom signed separately two P500-million loan contracts with **Global Bank** and **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.** The loans will be used to partly finance the construction of a state-of-the-art technical center in Makati City.

* * *

THE BOURSE lifted yesterday the trading suspension on the shares of **Wellex Industries Inc.**

* * *

THE EXCHANGE suspended on Aug. 1 the trading of shares of **Philcomsat Holdings Corp. and Philippine National Construction Corp.** The suspension will remain until the companies comply with the reportorial requirements of the PSE.

* * *

MANULIFE Financial Corp. approved the payment of the quarterly cash dividend amounting to C$0.12 per share on its common shares. The dividends are payable on Sept. 19 to shareholders of record as of Aug. 15.

* * *

LMG Chemical Corp. signed a memorandum of agreement with **Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.** and **Caltex** to undertake a feasibility study that will look into various ways of making use of the oil refineries' excess molten sulfur production.

* * *

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. said that its 70-megawatt Bakun Power Station would start operations in early September.

* * *

EXPRESS Holdings Inc. acquired additional 110,000 shares of **Robinsons Land Corp.** at P2 per share and 1,000 shares of **Universal Robina Corp.** at P4.90 per share.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA announced that its consolidated revenues increased by 12 percent to P7.841 billion from P6.995 billion a year ago.

* * *

ATN Holdings Inc. completed on July 10 its investments in **Transpacific Broadcast Group Int'l. Inc.** amounting to P30 million, representing 30-percent ownership in the company.

* * *

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. confirmed that Ricardo Zarate, Claro Carmelo Ramirez and George Lim resigned as directors of the company effective June 28.

* * *

BELLE Corp. confirmed that the company has been engaged in negotiations with potential investors but none of the investors has given a firm commitment to the development of its idle lands in Tagaytay Highlands.

Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

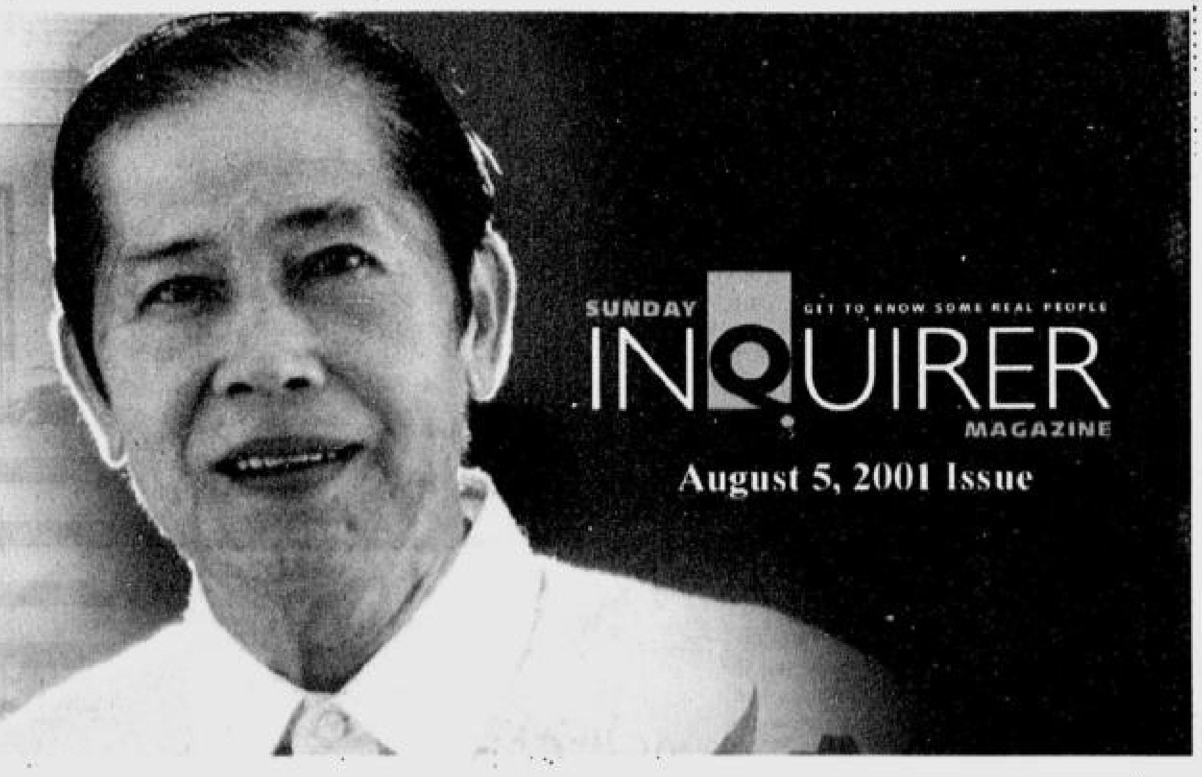
(As of Thursday, Aug. 2, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	10,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	2,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66	66	65.5	66	124,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	207	210	206	209	32,370
Philippine National Bank	47.5	47.5	46	47	1,281,200
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	30	30	10,200
Security Bank Corp.	19	20	19	19.5	37,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	20,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1600	1590	1600	2,740
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1325	1330	1325	1325	15,880
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38.5	38.5	38	38	2,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	430,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	33,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.9	19,000
Piltel	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	650	650	645	645	11,780
Ivantage Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	170,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.032	0.034	0.03	0.034	183,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	36	36	35	35	7,500
Manila Electric Co. B	42.5	42.5	41.5	42	2,112,100
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.82	1,444,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.08	2.14	2.06	2.14	2,238,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	140,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.24	1.18	1.24	236,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.8	2,512,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	189,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	27.5	28.5	27	28.5	44,600
RFM Corp.	2.36	2.4	2.32	2.36	1,792,000
San Miguel Corp. A	43	43	42.5	43	116,400
San Miguel Corp. B	55.5	56.5	55.5	56	324,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	10,000
Ayala Corp.	6	6.1	6	6.1	3,410,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.52	405,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.08	1.08	4,014,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	14,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.44	800,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.29	0.225	0.26	3,560,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.76	1.82	1.76	1.78	2,207,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.115	0.115	240,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29	29	28	28.5	458,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.19	0.22	0.19	0.22	150,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	60,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11	11	11	20,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.1	13,327,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.02	1.1	1.02	1.1	14,679,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.02	2	2	559,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,145,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.66	0.69	0.66	0.68	1,650,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	300,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	196,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	75,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	70,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	45,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.22	0.24	1,260,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	110,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	1,140,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	100,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.87	130,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.56	0.56	1,970,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	2,170,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	16,300
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref.	10	10	10	10	100
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	352,000
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	465	465	455	455	1,500
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	40,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	80,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.25	2,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10	10	5,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.015	0.017	0.013	0.017	160,900,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.8	5,455,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.2	0.21	980,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	26,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	1,400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.88	1.84	1.88	450,000
City & Land Developers	1.9	2	1.9	2	30,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	35,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
SM Development Corp.	0.83	0.84	0.82	0.82	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	695,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	29,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc.B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	1,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	3,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.04	0.046	0.04	0.046	48,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	100,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	15,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	2,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	4,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,537,690	102,160,710.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	550,673,280	334,751,290.00
PRO	9,951,000	32,337,540.00
Mining	98,515,000	2,510,100.00
OIL	6,020,000	104,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	666,715,970	471,903,540.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	552.83	DOWN 2.82
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,911.33	UP 11.36
PRO	492.42	DOWN 1.17
Mining	1,281.55	UP 25.67
OIL	1.74	UP 0.05
All Shares Index	821.18	UP 2.98
Composite	1,341.56	UP 7.85

NO. OF ADVANCES: 30; NO. OF DECLINES: 28; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 47;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 105; NO. OF TRADES: 1,956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Alvarez's alibi

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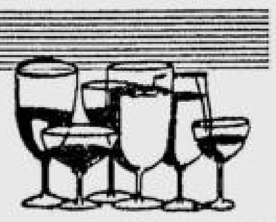

By Victor C. Agustin

TRANSPORTATION and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez told the press, when the Naia Terminal 3 controversy was just heating up, that he had divested himself of his shareholdings in a construction company that is currently doing work at the proposed terminal.

"I am not denying that I had shares in the company," he said, referring to Wintrack Builders, the lead local contractor for the excavation and site development of the proposed international airport terminal.

Alvarez said he and his wife Emelita had already divested themselves of their combined 30-percent shareholdings in Wintrack in favor of their partners after Alvarez was appointed to the Macapagal-Arroyo Cabinet.

The problem with Alvarez's alibi—that he "had shares" in Wintrack—is that he was not even listed as a shareholder of Wintrack.

Based on the incorporation papers submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission, only the following were listed as Wintrack shareholders:

- Roger A. Mercado, lawyer/president, of 3 Magnolia St., Bayview Garden, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, 8,250 shares.
- Emelita A. Alvarez, of 118 Merriment St., Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City, 8,250 shares. Alvarez used her old address despite submitting a community tax certificate issued in Muntinlupa, where the Alvarezes now actually live, in the millionaire's row at Ayala Alabang.
- Luisito V. Clavano, of 353 San Bartolome St., Ayala Alabang Village, Muntilupa City, 2,750 shares.
- Carlitos V. Clavano, of 32 Tagbilaran St., Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City, 2,750 shares.
- Ronald V. Clavano, treasurer, of 70 Juan Luna St., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City, 2,750 shares.
- Diosdado N. Silva, no address given, 250 shares.

In all, Wintrack reported a total of 25,000 shares at P100 per share of subscribed capital, with only P625,000 actually being paid-up, representing 25 percent of its authorized capital stock of P10 million, when the shareholders signed the incorporation papers on Oct. 5, 1999.

Despite having been registered in October 1999, Wintrack formally started commercial operations only on May 1, 2000, based on its audited financial statement for the year.

The following month, on June 8, 2000, to be exact, Wintrack had the uncanny luck to be appointed as the major subcontractor for the excavation works of the proposed terminal. For P165.4 million, the main Japanese contractor Takenaka Corp. awarded the clearance, excavation and site development works of the government-flagship project to Wintrack, a month-old corporation which had absolutely no track record to speak of.

Incidentally, the male Alvarez, a congressman at that time, was then the vice chair of the House transportation committee that held hearings on the validity of the Terminal 3 contract.

Before being elected representative of Davao del Norte in 1998, Alvarez was also the chief operating officer of the Manila International Airport Authority as well as the chair of its bids and award committee that provided the technical spadework for the Terminal 3 contract.

Despite already having been awarded a site development contract, Wintrack four months later was awarded another demolition/excavation contract, this time direct from Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), the German-led consortium with partners from San Juan who won the contract to build and operate Terminal 3.

The Piatco-Wintrack contract, dated Oct. 27, 2000, is open-ended as to price since payment would be determined per unit cost of actual work done by Wintrack. Piatco was then represented by its president, Cheng Yong, a San Juan resident.

In the eight months that it operated in the year 2000, Wintrack beat the construction slowdown and reported its assets having grown to P60.3 million. In the meantime, it increased its authorized capital to P20 million, fully paid up.

For the year 2000, Wintrack reported a gross income of P7.9 million and an after-tax net of P1.3 million. These figures do not include a projected income of P113 million from contracts Wintrack had signed during the year.

Heard through the grapevine

INSTEAD of the previously announced award to farmers' cooperatives, Malacañang is now planning to open up "free for all" any future rice importation outside of the government's National Food Authority.

Apparently, President Macapagal-Arroyo has been prevailed upon to use this formula upon the recommendation of NFA Administrator Anthony Abad, the avowed free-trader ex-chair of the Tariff Commission.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Gov't names Napocor sale advisers

By RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday announced that Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. has appointed Credit Suisse First Boston and NM Rothschild as advisers for National Power Corp.'s privatization.

Energy Secretary Vicente S. Perez Jr. said CSFB was chosen due to the commitment to the deal of the bank's senior officers.

"CSFB presented a very high-profile team from London, New York, Singapore, Hong Kong and Manila," he said.

He added that the bank had relevant privatization experience in the power sector in emerging markets like Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Ukraine, Slovakia and Australia.

He said, however, that the bank had no experience in advising similar undertakings in Asia.

Perez said NM Rothschild was also chosen because of its experience in advising on power utilities' mergers, acquisitions and biddings of electricity distribution and generation assets that were being privatized.

He said the investment house was involved in the privatization of Electro Peru and Korean Electric Power Corp., the largest power firms in their respective countries.

NM Rothschild is also currently the National Electrification Administration's adviser for investment management.

The two were chosen from among a group that included ING Barings-PriceWaterhouse Coopers, Salomon Smith Barneys-Citigroup, Lehman Brothers, JP Morgan-Chase Manhattan and Macquarie Bank group of Australia.

In an earlier interview, Perez said one of the requirements for the prospective advisers was to submit a proposed privatization plan.

"The proposals include suggestions on which (Napocor assets) to privatize first," Perez explained.

The prospective advisers also laid down in their plans their ideas on the proper sequence that the power firm's generating assets would be privatized.

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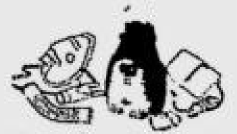

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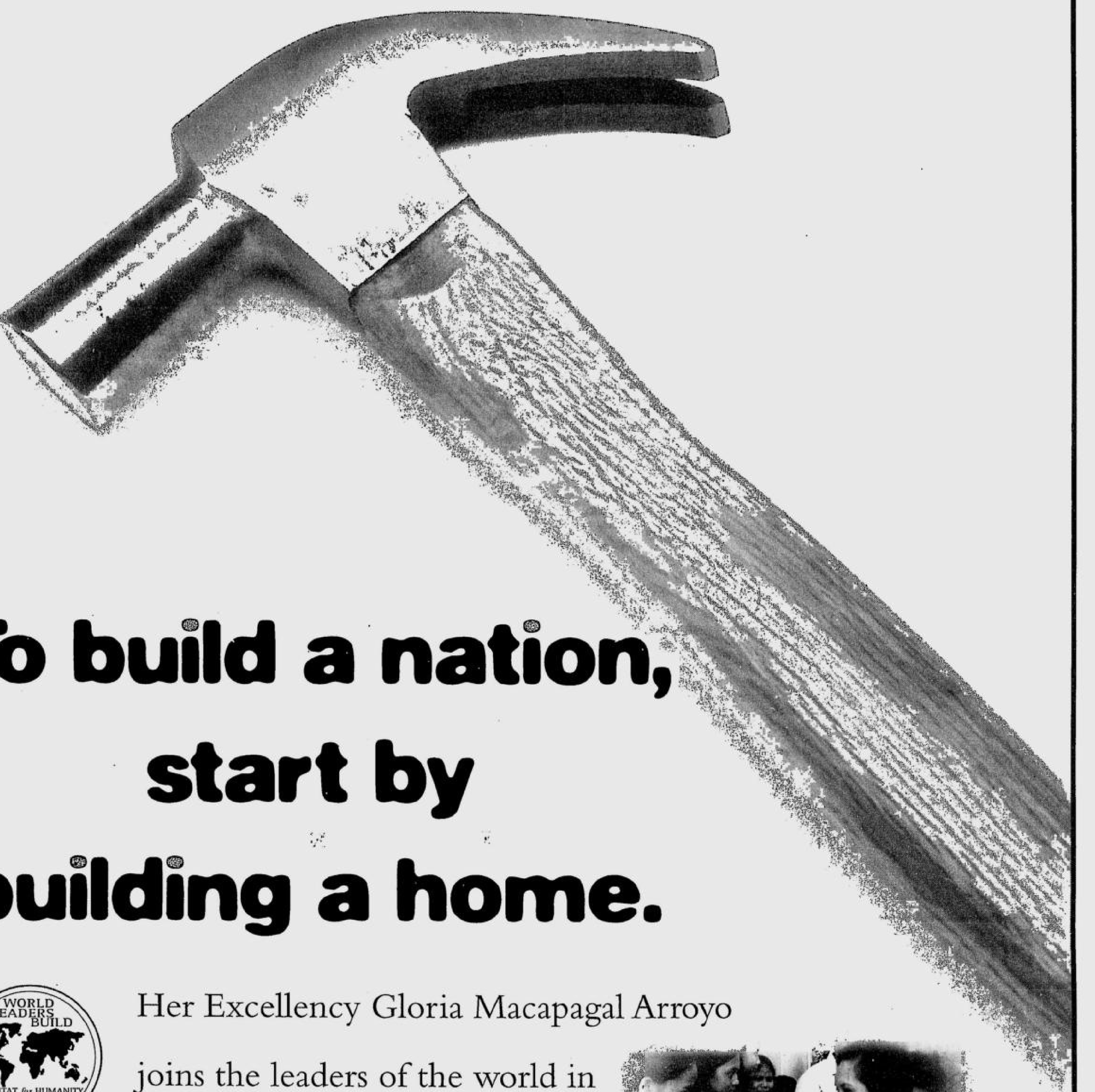

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Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter kicks off the affair in South Korea together with former Philippine President Corazon Aquino and South Korean President and Nobel Peace Laureate Kim Dae Jung. Our very own President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo leads the largest gathering of government, private sector and civic society organizations in home-building activities to be held in Pinugay, Rizal on August 6. Also participating are youth leaders and volunteers in Escalante, Negros Occidental on August 8 and various faith organizations in Cagayan de Oro on August 9. This is in addition to volunteer organizations building in 23 other sites across the nation that same week.

That makes for thousands of helping hands from all over joining and working together to build homes that will build hope and new lives. Truly it is a huge and noble task that deserves all our support. To find out how you can participate in World Leaders Build Week, call 638-8007 for more information.

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Monark Equipment Corporation, Pioneer Insurance and Surety Corp., Alen International Industrial Corp., Avesco Group, Luis Puyat, Philippine American Life & General Insurance Company, Social Security System, Global Bank, Adamson (Phils) Inc., Makati Foundry Inc., Pilipino Cable Corporation, Air Philippines, First Philippine Energy Corp., Mariwasa Manufacturing Inc., American Standard, Monde Nissin Corp., Kinetic Water Services, Colgate Palmolive Phils. Inc., Commonwealth Foods Inc., Aromin, Sy + Associates, Philippine Bible Society, Republic Asahi Glass Corporation, SEACOM, University of the Philippine College of Home Economics Interior Design Batch 2002, Makati Coverall Interiors, Archilean Builders, Will Decena and Associates, DDT Konstract Inc., Century Iron Works, Inc., Wel-Best Manufacturing, YKL-Fuji Film

$600-M naphtha project facing further delay

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE $600-million naphtha cracker project of Philippine National Oil Co. in Bataan is facing further delay as prospects of closing a deal with a prospective joint venture partner within the year dimmed.

PNOC president Thelmo Y. Cunanan admitted Tuesday that the state-controlled company might not be able to close this year a joint venture deal with China Petroleum Corp.

"We are working to have a joint venture agreement this year but this may be hard to achieve considering the time factor and other things beyond our control," Cunanan told reporters.

He explained that China Petroleum still needed the approval of the Chinese parliament because it was a state-owned firm.

The former ambassador said that even if PNOC and China Petroleum were ready to sign an agreement by October or November, they would not be able to do so if the Chinese parliament has not acted on the matter.

"You know how parliament works, you cannot dictate on the political leadership, they have their own body clock," he added.

In an earlier interview, Cunanan said PNOC was aiming for a 34-percent equity in the planned joint venture, which would be the same as that of the strategic partner.

"The remaining 32-percent could belong to one of the 12 firms that have expressed interest in the naphtha project," Cunanan said.

The 12 firms include Petron Corp., Petrochemicals Corp., Bataan Polyethylene Corp., Sumitomo Corp., Mitsubishi Corp., Itochu Corp., Mitsui & Co., Marubeni Corp., BP Amoco PLC, Philippine Resins Industries Inc., D&L Industries and JG Summit Petrochemical Corp.

He added that the group has yet to sign a memorandum of agreement renewing the one that expired in March.

Cunanan said the group had made "certain modifications to strengthen the old MOA."

He said the firms were also awaiting developments that would make the pursuit of the naphtha cracker more favorable.

Cunanan said these indicators include:

- The passage of the Omnibus Investment bill
- The imposition of a 10-percent tariff on imported petrochemical products; and
- Assurances of secure electricity supply, on which the petrochemical industry is very dependent.

Napocor to issue bonds worth $350M

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. has approved the issuance of about $350 million worth of bonds in the overseas market between the third and the fourth quarter of the year to finance maturing debts of about $300 million.

Napocor president Jesus Alcordo said the state-run power firm was supposed to "piggy-back" on the planned $500 to $800 million worth of global bonds that the national government would float in September.

He said the plan to hitch the Napocor's borrowings with the national government was shelved and the power firm would have to pursue its own financing program.

Alcordo did not say why the plan was scrapped but market sources said the US-based investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston could not extend to Napocor the favorable pricing that was given to the national government.

The investment bank was reportedly facing some losses from the tight pricing it had given the national government, days before the threat of Argentina defaulting on its loans hit the markets and led to higher spreads of emerging market borrowers like the Philippines.

Credit Suisse was chosen as the financial adviser that will help design the privatization of the power firm.

Alcordo said the Napocor would evaluate several proposals to underwrite the borrowings.

Telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. had also planned to borrow about $600 million through a bond issue but later decided to defer the plan as sentiment against emerging market borrowers worsened in late July.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho confirmed that Napocor was working out a bond issue to refinance maturing debts. He said the state-owned power firm had already been discussing with potential arrangers of the issue.

"The money will be used to pay maturing obligations. Napocor plans to do that within the year," Camacho said earlier.

The planned borrowing of Napocor was approved in principle by the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. The central bank said it would prefer borrowings maturing in five years and beyond.

The BSP said monetary authorities needed to ensure that the country's debt maturity would not bunch up into the short-term. "The longer the maturity is, the better. They should issue bonds with maturity of at least five years," said a central bank official.

The BSP is also monitoring the level of foreign borrowings to ensure that the level would not exceed the limits it had committed with the International Monetary Fund under the post-program monitoring of the country's performance.

When asked if the enactment of the power bill would affect the pricing of Napocor's bond issue, a source said it should not be considered a significant factor since the proceeds would be used to pay the power firm's maturing obligations.

How to survive with ₱250 a day?

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

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BEFORE we, employers and HR managers, dismiss peremptorily the current demands for wage increases, why don't we all pause awhile and reflect objectively on the issue of survival that the daily-paid workers have to face constantly as they try very hard to cope with the rising cost of living especially in Metro Manila?

While we agree that the business sector may not be able to afford a legislated wage hike or one that is mandated via the mechanism of the wage boards, we should not altogether deny the hardships that daily-paid workers have to face every single day, and perhaps, we can be creative enough to hammer out a safety net short of wage increases.

While we hasten to caution that any wage hike should not include companies with existing CBAs, we should all open our eyes to the reality that we really need to address the wage issue. We need to craft some coping mechanisms to save our workers from starvation and penury.

Wages less deductions

A minimum wage earner, Mang Pandoy, for example, earns P250 a day, that is if his labor contractor or agency does not cheat him or underpay his wages. Multiply that by 26 working days, he gets a gross pay of P6,500 a month.

The total statutory deductions are assumed to reach P618.78 monthly, which include SSS dues at P216.70, income tax withheld to be remitted to the BIR at P203.33, Pag-ibig dues at P100 and Philhealth (Medicare) at P93.75. If you deduct all these from the monthly salary, the net pay of a minimum wage earner is about P5,881.22.

Less food and fare

Mang Pandoy owes the factory canteen about P42 a day comprising a very poor man's lunch at P30 and a simple snack of P12. Multiply that by 26 working days, he would have to pay the canteen a total of P1,092 a month. If he won't, the canteen will ban him from eating on credit and will pester him daily for payment.

He has to take the jeepney twice from his house to the factory and from the factory back to his house. That is P8 plus P8, that is P16. Multiply that by 26 days, that amounts to P416 a month. Therefore the food and the fare cost P1,508 a month. Deducting that from Pandoy's net pay of P5,881.22, the take home pay is a measly P4,373.22.

Wage vs budget

Aling Mameng, Mang Pandoy's wife, presents to him a budget when he gets home. The budget includes P2,500 for food (to feed five family members a month), P2,500 for the house rental, P500 for the electric bill, P150 for the water bill and the monthly allowances of Jason, Jomar and Erwin of P2,730 (P35 per son per day to cover fare and food in school for 26 days). That would be a whopping P8,380.

Since Mang Pandoy's take home salary is only P4,373.22 and Aling Mameng's budget reached P8,380.00, there is a monthly deficit of P4,006.78. Well, Mang Pandoy's family only reflects the national reality. Our government normally operates on a deficit as our national revenues can never cope with our expenses. The phenomenon is endemic.

Bridging the gap

To cope with the difficult business of living, Mang Pandoy will have to go to the loan shark who is only too happy to give him a loan with 20 percent interest. That is the 5-6 syndrome that permeates the Filipino psyche and pervades the lower strata of the society.

If not to the loan shark, Aling Mameng has to accept laundry jobs or sell vegetables. And Jason should help by selling newspapers or cigarettes or ice water along the highway. Jomar may be more creative. He can accept the offer of a pimp to become a child prostitute. Erwin may be compelled to become a drug pusher. This is the root cause of all social problems.

Multiply this a million fold

The sorry predicament of Mang Pandoy and his family is multiplied a million times from the interiors of Tondo to the squatter areas in B. Rodriguez, Cebu, from the slum areas in Davao to the peripheries of Bacolod and Iloilo. Families don't have enough to eat. They have no decent homes. They are in tattered clothing, and they don't go to schools. The number of out-of-school youths is increasing.

If you ask me why there are child prostitutes, drug pushers, street beggars and other "eyesores" in the society, I will tell you it all begins in the employment and wage issue. It is not fair, not just, not Christian or Filipino to just dismiss the call for wage hikes without a deeper reflection of all its consequences and implications.

Food before freedom

Food is more important than freedom. A person in jail is freer than a worker who has no food. Job is more important than justice. A jobless person is not free. He would rather be subjected to injustice by his employer than be without a means of livelihood. A hungry man has no dignity. He is stripped of his honor and self-respect.

A wage earner who does not earn enough is not really free. He is subject to a lot of fears. He fears for the lives of his loved ones. He fears that his sons can not afford education and therefore they will become poorer than he is. He fears that if his wife gets sick, he won't be able to buy medicine for her. He fears a lot. He even fears death because the cost of dying exceeds the cost of living. And when he persists in his fears, he is dangerous to society.

No peace for the hungry

We can not just leave the workers alone even if we too, are hard up. We have to create innovative ways to help them cope. Otherwise, the hungry will make life insecure for those who are contented. When the poor are angry, the rich will face a grave and imminent danger of a social revolution. They will not be in peace.

Yes, business is in a crisis. It is true the employers may not be able to afford it. But we have to think of other ways to address the problem, and not just dismiss the whole thing without batting an eyelash. This is a matter of life, not just money. It may be your life in exchange for a little money. Think about it.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph.)

GOINGS-ON

Hartigan-Go in toxicology congress

KENNETH Hartigan-Go, executive director of the Zuellig Foundation, recently participated in the IX International Congress of Toxicology in Brisbane, Australia.

As its speaker, Hartigan-Go spoke on developing a pharmacovigilance system in the Philippines.

The congress, which was held on July 9-12, 2001, was jointly hosted by the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX) and the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists. This year's theme was "Toxicology and Sustainable Development—Meeting the Challenge." The next international congress of toxicology will be held in Finland in 2004.

Hartigan-Go has been appointed as executive director of the recently launched Zuellig Foundation.

Mechatronics awardees

THE GOKONGWEI Brothers Foundation Tech Center team made up of GBF Cycle 1 graduate Dominique Labiano and Cycle 2 graduating scholars Serafin Orozco and Dominador Ilagan recently won the National Mechatronics Skills Competition.

Mechatronics is a hybrid technology merging mechanics, electrical, electronics and informatics. It is a field where advanced countries like Germany, Austria, USA, Singapore and Japan excel.

The national competition was participated in by Meralco Foundation, Marikina Institute of Science and Technology and Tesda Batangas. Festo Pneumatics of Germany and Philippine Skills Excellence Foundation sponsored the contest. Siemens Automation and Drive provided prizes.

UCPB unit declares dividend

UCPB Rural Bank recently declared cash dividends to its common and preferred stockholders totaling P69.9 million, following record-high earnings last year. The dividends represent 43 percent of the bank's common stock and 2 percent of its preferred stock.

UCPB Rural Bank, which is majority-owned by UCPB, posted a net income after tax of P161.1 million in 2000, an all-time high for the bank and 15 percent higher than the 139.8 million earned in 1999. Other stockholders include the Alubijid-Laguindingan-Gitagum Integrated Farmers Association, a 1,000-strong coconut farmers cooperative based in Mindanao.

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Warehse 2000m² 0917-8398865

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PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

WANTED TO LEASE

Hse w/ 3BDRM 2Baths w/ yard located in Tagaytay City call (0916)3034170

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CARS

HONDA

94 Civic 235T 09178350833

94 Lancer Gli 188T 56Km 94L300Alumvan128T6437957

HYUNDAI

91 ELANTRA IMPTD 5638515

94 GRACE 205 T330-3315

98 GRACE 260 T330-3315

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TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

KIA

96 Besta 235T 330-3315

96 Sportage 350T 6437957

98 Besta 260T 330-3315

98 Pregio 340T 330-3315

MAZDA

96 Familia GLX,P240T AT T-5348146•0917-8193433

MERCEDES

98 MB 100D 390T 330-3315

MITSUBISHI

94 Lncr Vry Gd Cndtn., Fresh F Lded P205T Call 2815233

97 L300 EX 380T 635-6579

NISSAN

Nissan Terrano Slightly Used 1st Ownr 915-3075 M-F

96 SENTRA A1COND 5624560-63

'98 Sentra 300T 0917-8168618

SUZUKI

Suzuki Esteem 00 Tel 727-3011

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'01 Corolla 500T 0917-8168618

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HiAce L300 Urvan 8264223

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

MB 100 Van 643-7397

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

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2% w/o taking car 7262780

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HOME APPLIANCE

2HP Carrier P9T 1.5HP P7.5T 1HP P6T Slim Packg Type Carrier Koppel, Allnaire P35T 5HP Koppel, P55T 7.5HP P80T Tel 921-9465;426-0930

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

K'board Bass&Guitar Drum Players 4 Rec. Contract 9124464

FEMALE

BEAUTICIANS
W/ or W/some experience, hardworking, wanted for elegant salon, good salary, commission, health insurance, SSS, Pag-Ibig. Call Lourdes at TONY GALVEZ CENTRUM 913-3953 and 913-4370.

COMMERCE GRAD
Bio-data transcript NBI 1216 Pedro Gil Paco T-5610681

Expd. Family Cook 7225614

NURSE/MIDWIFE reg.-under Brd.3659-A Dupil St. Old Sta. Mesa infrnt Lourdes Hosp.

Nurse/M'wife Stay-in T5610681

Singer & Vocalist
for Rec. Contract 912-4464

URGENTLY NEEDED
w/ Arb. Keyboard Player Female w/ pleasing personality. Call K'Ann Prom. 046-4163432 - Annie / Ansel

WTD: Yaya/H.Maids/Int'l. Cook, Fam. Cook 660-4589

MALE/FEMALE

Auto-Mech./Sec. w/exp Apply@65 Mindanao Av QC

BLDG. MAINTENANCE ELECT KNOWLEDGE IN AC & PABX T-8384260/8383372

Direct Hire Ofc Staff 9134470 Start ASAP Ms. Fe

Marketing AssociateM/F
26yo-up w/orw/exp. P15-20K
Norman 8388655 09163189644

•Ofc Staff 9134470 Gale

OFC STAFF 9134470 REY

•OFC STAFF DIRECT HIRE•
Call 9134470 c/o Camille

•Ofc Staff•9168033 Arlene

URGENT OFFICE STAFF PLS CALL MS. FAITH #7366660

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
TEACHERS
w/pleasing personality
likes to work w/people
CALL Chal Jax 635-4178

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Reyco Pawnshop Inc 208 E. Rodriguez Q.C. Expired Pledges August 16, 2001 2:00PM Flor Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Trvl Oppor/Earn Fr Home 8531008 2477469 5252230 Pgr 6343333 ID# 227933

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HOT LINES: 8390060

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late **Sinforoso V. Sanchez, Jr.** has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on August 1, 2001 under Doc#107; Page#23; Book#XLVIII; Series of 2001 before Not. Pub. Atty. Henry B. Adasa of Mla., M.M.
(PDI-Aug. 3, 10 & 17, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DIONISIO S. BODOSO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs before Notary Public Harold Elmo O. Banzuela of Pasig City on 6/25/01 w/ Doc#488 Page#98 Book I Series of 2001 PDI 8/3,10,17,2001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ROMEO A. HERRERA who died March 26, 1999, located in Puerto Princesa, Roxas and Coron Palawan has been extrajudicially settled by the heirs, per Doc# 351, Page# 71, Book# IX, Series of 2000 before Dionisio T. Flora, Notary Public of Paranaque City.
(PDI-July 18, 25, & Aug. 1, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of the following PETRON CORP. Stock Cert. SN's 108114, 774150, 1303605, 1519949, 421473, 774148, 1303604 and 1519947 under the name of RICO M. DAKIS or HILDA P. DAKIS were lost.
(PDI-Aug. 3, 10 & 17, 2001)

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER
O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, mani-fested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

International Service Company wants

ACCOUNTANTS

- Twelve (12) positions to be filled
- 25 years old and below
- New graduates welcome
- CPA a plus but not necessary
- Very competitive salary
- Very good career opportunities
- Female candidates preferred
- New building office, (Ortigas Center)

Requirements: Resumé, Copy of CPA Licensure Exam result, 2x2 photo, Contact address and phone number (your email address if applicable), a cut out copy of this ad.

Send requirements to: The Personnel Officer, PO Box #14233, Ortigas Center Post Office, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
You may also email requirements to rmigaz@itextron.com

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
4/F Presidential Management Staff Building, Arlegui St.,
San Miguel, Manila
Telephone Nos. +632 7342102; +632 7335488; +632 7335448
Telefax Nos. +632 7342217; +632 7342218

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission-Project Management Office (PRRC-PMO) is inviting all eligible bidders for the printing of about 7,000 copies of reference materials, a sub-component of the DANIDA-funded Danish Assistance to the Pasig River Rehabilitation Program with the following specifications:

Size :	81/4" x 10 3/4"
Cover Stock :	Foldkote 12, full color, matte laminate
Inside Stock :	Book 60, one color
No. of Pages :	220 pages
Binding :	Perfect Smythe
Printing :	Offset
Format :	Diskette Ready
Estimated Cost :	1.7M

Interested bidders shall submit their Application for Eligibility to the Chairperson, Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC), PRRC-PMO, 4th Floor, PMS Bldg. Arlegui St., Malacañang, Manila, NOT LATER THAN 5:00 p.m. from **August 3, 2001** to **August 16, 2001**. Eligibility Statement Forms may be obtained from PRRC-BAC Office.

Those who are eligible to bid for the project are duly licensed individuals for single or sole proprietorship, partnership or corporations and printing industries that will form themselves into a joint venture that intend to be jointly liable for the contract.

Eligible and ineligible bidders shall be notified by PRRC-BAC through telephone or fax on **August 18, 2001**. Thereafter, eligible bidders shall get their Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable payment of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) each from the PRRC-BAC during the Pre-Bid conference on **September 2, 2001** at the PRRC-BAC Office.

The deadline for the submission of Bid Documents and Price Proposals, and the Opening of Bids will be on **September 17, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the PRRC-BAC Office.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Bid Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of E.O. No. 302 and its implementing rules and regulations as amended by E.O. No. 262 dated **July 5, 2000** and other applicable rules and regulations.

The PRRC-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which will be the most advantageous to the government. The PRRC-BAC for any reason may annul the bidding process at any time prior to the awarding of the contract without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder/s. Decision of PRRC-BAC is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Chairperson, BAC

(PDI - Aug. 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

.INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID AD NO. PD 2001-41

Rebidding Date: August 15, 2001 - 10:00 AM

PB010627-T3JR6291	WELDING ELECTRODES, various sizes
PB010627-T3WG6293	PLATE, CRLS, Various sizes
PB010627-T3JR6316	TIRE, Tubeless, 195-R14/185-R14, 8 ply
PB010727-T3WG5915	UPGRADING OF DESKTOP PC TO PENTIUM III-800 MHz/FUSER ASSEMBLY for HP PRINTER/TONER CARTRIDGE for HP Laser Printer
PB010727-T3WG5644	POWER SYSYEM DYNAMIC MONITORING EQUIPMENT
PB010727-T3JR6452	SPARE PARTS FOR RTU EQUIPMENT/MULTI-FUNCTION RECORDER (Transistor, Connector, Capacitor, Regulator, Socket, Resistor, Ethernet Modem, Card, Telephone/Ethernet Cable, Crimper, etc.)
PB010727-T3JR6448	CARBIDE BURRS, Various Sizes
PB010727-T3JR6449	SAFETY MATERIALS (Face Shield Visor, Rubber Gloves, Welding Apron)
PB010727-T3JR6450	ARGON GAS, Welding Grade, 99.98% Purity

****Bidding Date: August 22, 2001**

2001-41-01	BATTERY BANK, 48 Volt, Gel type, Maintenance Free
2001-41-02	TIG WELDING GLOVES/WELDING ELECTRODE, Size: 3 3/32" dia. X 7 length
2001-41-03	SHAFTING BARS, various sizes
2001-41-04	LABORATORY CHEMICALS (Acetone, Perchloric Acid, Sodium Peroxide, Potassium Disulfate)/CLEANING SOLUTION, Heavy duty, Water Soluble, non-toxic
2001-41-05	LOAD METER INDICATOR, 09-384001-1, for Super King Air 350 RP-2850
2001-41-06	SERVICES: One year supply of Mineral/Purified water
2001-41-07	SERVICES: Job order for the Installation of Additional Conduit & Cable Tray at Mexico S/S, Pampanga
2001-41-08	SERVICES: Job Order for the Expansion of Cable Trench at Biñan S/S
2001-41-09	SERVICES: Supply of Labor & Materials for the Repair of Mitsubishi Stake/Boom Truck

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P50.00, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the Metro Manila telephone directory. ** Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms to participate in this bidding is on **August 10, 2001.**

Bidding documents available on **August 2, 2001** upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). ** Last day of issuance of bidding documents **August 16, 2001.**

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries please call no. 921-25-74.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI – Aug. 3 & 4, 2001)

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY
Fort del Pilar, Baguio City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Philippine Military Academy is inviting interested manufacturers/suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the procurement of the Initial Clothing Allowance,(ICA) and Combat Clothing and Individual Equipment (CCIE) of PMA Class 2006.

Initial requirements for pre-qualification can be secured from the Academy Procurement Office, Gen Lim Hall Building, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City and at PMA Liaison Office, Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City during office hours.

A pre-bidding conference is scheduled on **August 7, 2001** at 9:30 a.m. at the Longayban Hall, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. ICA and CCIE samples/specifications and bid documents as well as instructions to bidders will be presented during this conference.

Manufacturers/suppliers who fail to attend a pre-bidding conference shall be disqualified from participating in the actual bidding.

For particulars, please contact the Secretariat, PBAC at: PMA Procurement Office, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City (447-3685) PILTEL.

(Sgd.) **EFREN E. DAQUIL**
COLONEL (MNSA) PAF
Chairman (PBAC)

(PDI - Aug 3, 2001)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

FISH POND TECHNICIAN / MANAGER

Qualifications:

- Male
- Must have extensive experience in culture of bangus
- With leadership ability

Qualified applicants may call at **854-5682** and **851-5865**

FOR SALE as is, where is

WATER TANK AND MOTOR with PUMP

☑ 150,000 Gallons Capacity
☑ with 30 hp Franklin Motor and submersible pump (GMA)
☑ with electrical cables and 22 pieces G.I. pipes 3"
☑ For more information, please call at 937-40-10 or 937-40-16 and look for Menchie Cara

---

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to participate in the bidding for the supply and delivery of the following laboratory and pest control equipment:

Lot 1 -	8 units Laboratory Testing Mill 8 units Laboratory Huller
Lot 2 -	8 units Analytical Balance 8 units Top Loading Balance
Lot 3 -	28 units Power Sprayer

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

August 6-8, 2001	- Issuance of List of Pre-qualification Requirements
August 15, 2001	- Deadline of submission of pre-qualification documents
August 20-22, 2001	- Issuance of bid documents
August 24, 2001 (10:00 AM)	- Pre-bidding conference
August 31, 2001	
(9:15-10:00 AM)	- Submission of bid proposals
(10:15 AM)	Opening of bid proposals

Pre-qualification forms and requirements can be secured from and submitted to PBAC Secretariat ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from PBAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **EDGAR S. ASUNCION**
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Aug. 2, 3 & 6, 2001)

PAMANTASAN NG LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA
(University of the City of Manila)
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All interested bidders are invited to prequalify and participate in a sealed bidding for the supply and installation of ten (10) air conditioning units needed at the Gusaling Maynila on August 24, 2001 at 2:00 PM.

Prequalification Information Sheet may be obtained from the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs (527-7941 to 48 loc. 16), after paying the corresponding non-refundable fee. Duly accomplished forms together with the required prequalification statements/documents are to be submitted not later than August 17, 2001.

PLM reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids to waive any informality found therein or to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA N. SANTOS
Chairman, Prequalification, Evaluation,
Bidding, and Awards Committee

(PDI -- Aug. 3, 2001)

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MAKATI
892-5578
811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213
527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219
635-0220

Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Calipahan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija

INVITATION TO BID NO. NE II-DOE-EF-2001-001

The Department of Energy pursuant to Department Circular No. 95-11-009 under Energy Regulations No. 1-94 implementing Section 5 (i) of Republic Act No. 7638, as amended and its attendant rules and procedures, has allocated from its Electrification Fund (EF) an amount to be made available to Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) for the electrification projects in the province of Nueva Ecija as per Notice to Proceed No. EF 2001-486 dated February 13, 2001.

Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following distribution lines:

PROJECT PROPOSAL	KM OF LINE			
	2-Phase	1-Phase	Underbuilt	Open Secondary
1. Brgy. Capintalan, Carranglan		2.210	2.210	0.390
2. Brgy. Putlan, Carranglan	6.910		6.910	0.700
3. Brgy. Piut, Carranglan	6.450		5.550	0.420
4. Brgy. Mayamot I, Talugtug		3.950	0.280	1.050
5. Brgy. Mayamot II, Talugtug		4.020	1.030	0.280
6. Brgy. Sta. Catalina, Talugtug		3.530	0.650	0.420
7. Brgy. Maasin, Talugtug		1.200	0.560	1.260
8. Brgy. Villa Rosario, Talugtug		3.020	1.540	0.560
9. Brgy. Alula, Talugtug	3.360	0.210	1.540	1.190
10. Brgy. Buted, Talugtug		3.390	2.240	0.700
11. Brgy. Saguing, Talugtug				0.260
12. Brgy. Sampaloc, Talugtug		1.710	0.700	0.490
13. Brgy. Macapabellag, Guimba		1.330	0.320	0.350
14. Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Guimba		4.980	3.940	0.700
TOTAL	16.720	29.550	27.470	8.790

Bidders are required to bid for the whole package only.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased, starting August 6, 2001, by eligible bidders upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00).

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the PBAC, NEECO II, Calipahan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, Tel. No. (044) 411-1007. Pre-bid Conference will be held on August 24, 2001 at 9:00 AM at NEECO II Board Room also of the same address.

Sealed proposals in two (2) copies will be received by the PBAC at Village Inn, Mabini Homesite, Cabanatuan City, at exactly 10:00 AM, August 31, 2001 at which time and place said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidder's representative who choose to attend.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a Bid Security equivalent to TWO AND A HALF PERCENT (2.5%) of the Bid Price.

NEECO II hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects therein, and accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Cooperative.

ENGR. JUN S. CAPULONG
PBAC, Chairman
NEECO II

(PDI – Aug. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6, 2001)

PNOC SHIPPING & TRANSPORT CORPORATION
S & L Building, 1500 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines
P.O. Box EA-459, Ermita 1000, Manila
Tel. Nos. 525-9271 to 80
Fax No. 525-8376

PNOC
The Energy Company

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BIDDING

FOR SALE THROUGH SEALED BIDDING
ON CASH "AS IS, WHERE IS," BASIS

PNOC LPG CARRIER
JOSEFA GABRIELA SILANG

LOA	60.50 M
LBP	55.50 M
BREADTH	10.00 M
DEPTH	4.60 M
DRAFT	4.07 M
GROSS TONNAGE	667.00
YEAR BUILT	1978
CLASSIFICATION	NKK

Above vessel now anchored at Mabini, Batangas.

Bid form can be secured from Management Services Department c/o Mr. Raoul Trinidad 7th Floor, Room 718 of the same address at Tel. Nos. 525-9289 or 525-9271 local 222 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Bidders interested only for the vessel's BULLET TANKS may also submit their offer.

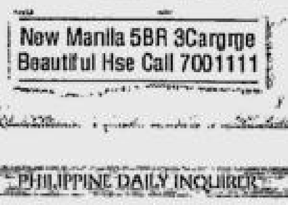
Sealed bids should be dropped in a bid box provided at Room 718 not later than **2:00 p.m. August 17, 2001** upon which bids shall be opened in the presence of participating bidders.

A bidders deposit of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) in the form of cash, cashier's or manager's check is required. Bid indicated should be inclusive of ten (10%) percent Value Added Tax (VAT).

PNOC-STC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality or infirmities found therein, or to accept such bids as may be advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **JOCELYN G. ATOTUBO**
Chairperson-Disposal Committee

(PDI - Aug. 3 & 4, 2001)



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BSP removes interest rate 'tiering scheme'

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MONETARY Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has effectively raised its overnight borrowing rates with the removal of a "tiering scheme" that pays a lower interest rate as bank deposits with the central bank grows.

While keeping its overnight borrowing and lending rates unchanged at 9 percent and 11.25 percent, the BSP lifted the incremental reduction in its overnight borrowing rates to mop up excess money in the system.

Starting today, the central bank will pay a flat rate of 9 percent on bank deposits to entice banks to park more money in its vaults.

Under its tiering scheme, the central bank pays a 9-percent interest on bank deposits worth up to P5 billion. The next P5 billion to P10 billion earns a lower interest rate of 7.5 percent and any deposit in excess of P10 billion carries an interest rate of 6 percent.

"This is consistent with our plan to mop up excess liquidity in the system. The other options we are considering will be reviewed next week," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Last week, Buenaventura said the 2-percentage-point increase in the reserve requirement on deposits and deposit substitutes to 18 percent would effectively mop up some P27.4 billion in excess liquidity from the financial system.

He said the increase was sufficient "for the meantime" to quell threats of rising inflation and a falling peso.

After the peso slid anew to 53.77 to a dollar on Wednesday, monetary authorities believed there was still room to tighten liquidity.

"We are more interested in mopping up liquidity, although we welcome any benefit to the peso," Buenaventura said.

Another option, he added, was to sell some government securities and pursue a more aggressive open-market operations.

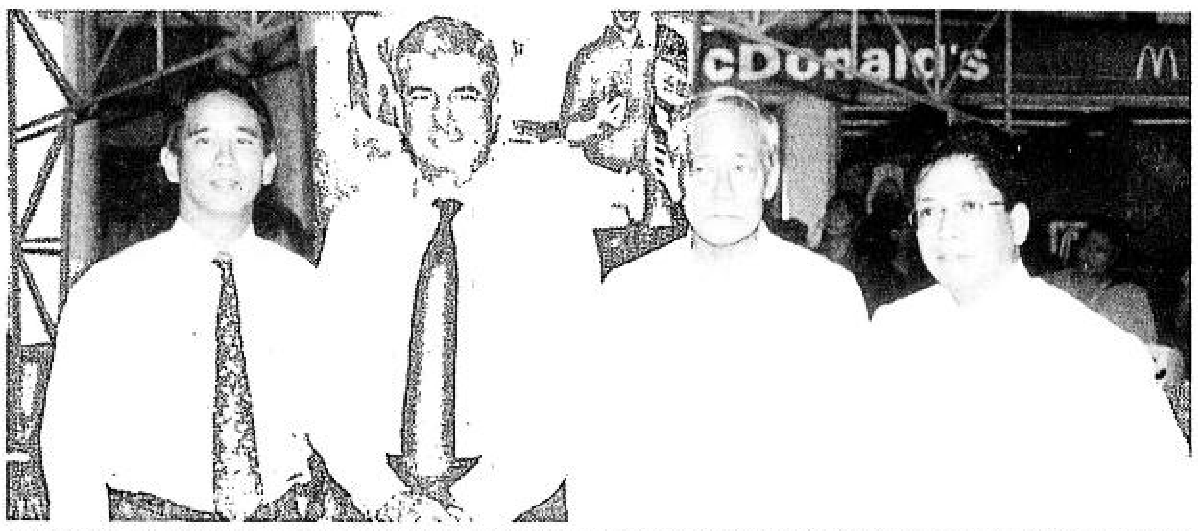
"We could also increase the liquidity ceiling on government deposits to depository banks," he said.

Mopping up excess liquidity will also help the peso's recovery because banks will have fewer cash to finance speculative attacks in the spot currency market.

The BSP earlier cut its money supply target by 2 percentage points to 13 percent in view of a long-term economic slump.

This came after the central bank decided to raise commercial banks' liquidity reserve requirements by 2 percentage points to 9 percent.

The central bank also reduced the amount of over-the-counter dollar sales of commercial banks to $5,000 from $10,000.



BANK of the Philippine Islands has unveiled a historical marker, the first to be installed along Ayala Avenue, that embodies its evolution in the local banking system. The 150-year-old bank is the first financial house to open its doors to serve the banking needs of Filipinos. The marker was unveiled by Pablo Trillana III, chair and executive director of the National Historical Institute, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, BPI director Fernando Zobel de Ayala, BPI president Xavier Loinaz and BPI senior executive vice president Aurelio Montinola III.

Asean businessmen pushing for higher content requirement

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BUSINESSMEN in Southeast Asia are pushing for a higher regional content requirement in projects under the Asean Industrial Cooperation agreement to spur demand for goods produced by companies in the region, especially small- and medium-size enterprises.

During yesterday's forum between the private sector and officials of the Asean Working Group on Industry Competitiveness, businessmen from Malaysia and Thailand said there was a need to raise the regional content requirement currently pegged at 40 percent to prevent multinational corporations from using Aico as a backdoor to slip their imports into the region.

Aico projects are entitled to trade their goods between Asean countries at preferred duties to facilitate their sharing of components across borders.

Asean businessmen are worried that if Aico products are granted duty-free status once the Asean Free Trade Area begins in 2003, the region with its 500 million population could be swamped with imports under the guise of Aico.

Apart from preventing the region from becoming a dumping ground for imports, businessmen said a higher Asean content would force Aico proponents to get more of their supplies from manufacturers in the region, a move that would benefit SMEs.

Although Aico projects have been mostly undertaken by MNCs, Board of Investments director Leticia Ibay said a number of SMEs were already tapped as their suppliers.

Also, the move to raise regional content requirement could discourage investors from the Aico program, which the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is currently enhancing to gain more interest.

In the WGIC meeting, private businessmen proposed to eliminate trade-balancing scheme—where all Aico projects are required to provide equal exports to all participating members—as well as strictly implement the timetable in processing Aico applications.

Aico began in the late 1980s as the Asean Industrial Joint Venture and Brand-to-Brand Complementation as a means to attract MNCs to locate their production facilities in the region by enabling to take advantage of the cost advantages in each member country.

The program was extended as a precursor of the Afta by allowing participants to enjoy preferred duties ahead of the Asean trading block.

BayanTel restructuring on track

By Abigail L. Ho

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc. said yesterday that it was on track to restructuring its almost $300 million worth of bank debts.

"We're on track for an orderly and consensual outcome for restructuring, but the final agreement will take time," BayanTel chief finance officer Gary Olivar said in an interview yesterday.

However, BayanTel is set to discuss something concrete with its creditors by this month.

Olivar said BayanTel was "still current on interest rate payments, but at a new level based on our capacity to pay."

For its peso-denominated loans, BayanTel is now paying interest based on the 91-day treasury bill rate plus a one-percent spread.

For its dollar-denominated loans, the interest rate is pegged at a one-percent spread over Libor (London Interbank Offered Rate).

Olivar said some of the debts were already past due, "but we have an informal standstill agreement with our creditors."

This standstill agreement stipulates that BayanTel will not go to the Regional Trial Court to seek debt relief while negotiating for a longer repayment term. Creditor banks will not go to the courts for claims as well.

"We appreciate the support we are getting from our creditor banks," he said.

Most of BayanTel's debts were incurred when it rolled out landlines during the mid-90s.

"A big source of our problem is the depreciation of the peso. This badly affected our liquidity," Olivar said.

He added that when BayanTel started borrowing money in 1995 and 1996, "the dollar was much lower than it is now."

However, he said BayanTel still posted positive Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) for the first half of the year.

"BayanTel is still earning, except that if our debts will not be restructured soon, our revenues will not be enough to cover repayments," BayanTel vice president Edgardo Balbin said.

DTI in dilemma over cement issue

TRADE Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II admitted yesterday he was in a dilemma over a simmering controversy involving cement imports, saying he was worried any decision could adversely affect either consumers or the local cement industry and its workers.

"How do you solve a problem like Maria?" Roxas told reporters, quoting a character who found herself in a difficult situation in the musical "Sound of Music."

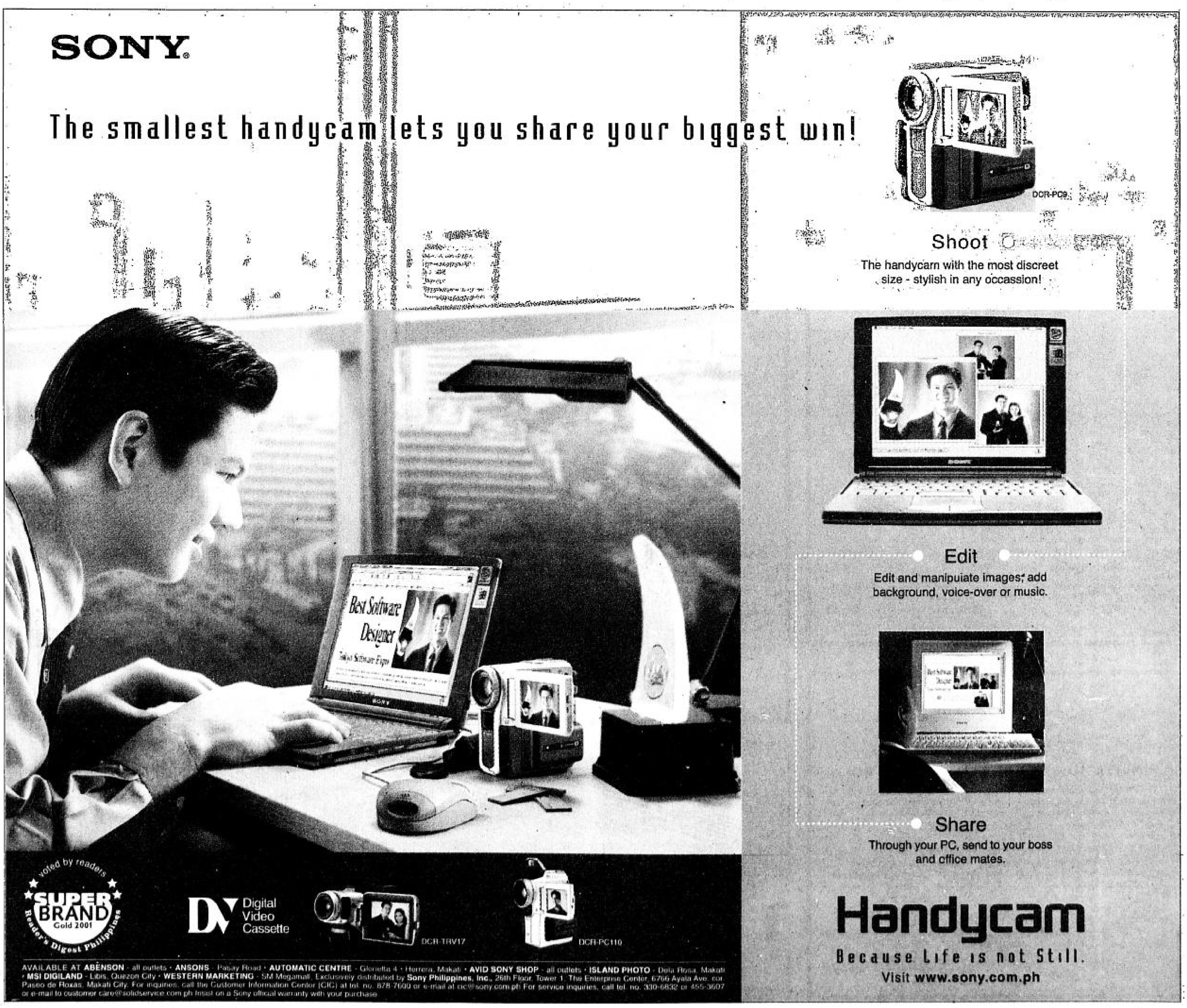
Roxas said the local cement industry was now in a situation where manufacturers were having problems with the viability of their operations, employees could lose their jobs, local government units could forfeit their main source of income and consumers were paying higher prices for cement.

He said these conflicting elements had made the cement industry different from the pharmaceutical industry, where the trade department was itself bringing in cheap medicine from India to force multinational corporations to make drugs more affordable to Filipinos.

"In one aspect, the cement and pharmaceutical industries are the same. Imports should have led to a contest between players and create better value for the market. While imports have forced a drastic drop in drug prices, cement prices continue to climb despite the imports," Roxas said.

He said while he did not want cement factories to close down and their workers to lose their jobs by allowing imports to come in unrestricted, he also did not want cement prices to go up by slapping punitive duties on imports because it would have a significant impact on government infrastructure projects.

"We are doing our best to be fair and impartial in our continuing evaluation of the petition by (Philcemcor) for tariff safeguards against imports," Roxas said. He promised to wrap up the DTI's probe this month.



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Asia better able to survive crisis–W. Bank

SYDNEY—The World Bank said Thursday Asia was in better shape than in 1997 to weather an economic crisis, although it did not believe a regional crisis was imminent.

"There is little comparison between the situation today in Asia (and) at the time of the Asian economic crisis," World Bank president James Wolfensohn said.

"It is much better geared to withstand a crisis," Wolfensohn told reporters in Sydney.

With much of Asia in recession, many economies such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand are still struggling to recover from the financial crisis that hit the region in 1997.

Asia's export-reliant economies face a tough year with faltering growth in the United States and Japan, raising the question how prepared is Asia to weather another economic crisis.

Market jitters that Argentina may default on its $128-billion public debt last month have sent a chill reminder of 1997 emerging market financial woes in Asia, which were subsequently compounded by the Russian debt crisis in 1998.

In Asia, Thailand was the first economy to be hit by the crisis as the region's banks revealed a series of bad loans, but even the robust economy of South Korea was not immune to the contagion.

But Wolfensohn said despite Argentina's current situation, he did not expect another economic crisis.

"I do not predict a crisis, but if one was to occur, Asia is distinctly much better off," Wolfensohn said. Argentina on Wednesday sought to secure European help as it moves to cut spending and head off fears of a default.

The International Monetary Fund has agreed to bring forward its review of Argentina by around two weeks to early September, a move that could help speed up aid disbursements.

While the World Bank has said its board will discuss the possibility of a $400-million loan disbursement to Argentina at the end of August, Argentina clinched a $40-billion aid package with lenders spearheaded by the IMF late last year.

Wolfensohn is in Australia to launch a joint initiative between the World Bank and Australia called the "Virtual Colombo Plan", which aims to promote Internet education in developing countries to help ease poverty.

Australia was one of the seven founding members of the original Colombo Plan created 50 years ago that provided thousands of scholarships for students from developing countries and faciliated technical aid. *Reuters*

Asia feeling heat of rising China

SINGAPORE—China's rise as an economic power would be a long-term plus. In the near-term, however, it would bring pain to much of Asia, Singapore's deputy prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, said Thursday.

China was "the biggest new variable" in the globalization equation, he told delegates at a New Economy conference.

Asian countries, particularly those heavily dependent on the information technology market, were already "feeling the heat," he said.

Lee said as countries jostled for pole position in the information age, 70 percent of foreign direct investment in the region was now being channeled into China and its Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong.

"Lured by low costs, abundant talent, industrious workers and the hope of a huge domestic market, tech manufacturers worldwide are expanding their operations in China," he said.

"China is already a global center for hardware manufacturing. It is also rapidly building up its capability in the more knowledge-intensive areas of software development and services," he said.

Lee cited the issue of Microsoft Corp. placing one of its four global support centers in Shanghai, where costs were one-third of those in the United States.

"China's rise is without doubt a plus," he said.

"A more prosperous China will mean a bigger market, more investment opportunities and a bigger trading partner. As China exports more, it will also import more," he said.

But Lee said that was a long-term result. In the short term, he said, an emerging China would mean dislocation as industries restructure and trade patterns change.

"Some workers will lose jobs while other industries will need workers, but with different skills," he said.

"Countries which are in the same market, competing head-on with China, may suffer painful adjustments."

Lee, expected to be Singapore's next prime minister when Goh Chok Tong steps down within the next six years, said he favored a free market approach to seize opportunities and create business.

"The way to promote enterprise is through less government intervention rather than more, he said.

"Silicon Valley depends on venture capital, not government grants. The attrition is ruthless, but the survivors are formidable." *AFP*

HK puts job fears on top of grievance

HONG KONG—Concern over jobs and the economy top the list of grievances in Hong Kong and dissatisfaction with the government is on the rise, according to the latest government public opinion poll.

The bimonthly survey, released this week, showed 49 percent of respondents were most concerned about jobs, versus 42 percent in May. Most were worried about difficulties in finding work and layoffs.

Concern about the territory's flagging economy ranked second, mentioned by 44 percent of respondents compared to 47 percent previously.

Such concerns "have to a certain extent dampened the spirit of the community generally," a spokesperson for the Home Affairs Bureau, which conducted the poll, said in a statement.

The percentage of people dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the government's performance rose to 51 percent from 44 percent in May. The number who said they were satisfied with the government fell to 27 percent from 34 percent.

The survey polled 1,474 people in July.

Hong Kong's export growth—a key driver of the territory's economic expansion last year—has been hit hard by the global slowdown.

Despite the slowdown, Hong Kong's jobless rate has hovered at 4.6 percent for the last few months. It worsened for the first time since September 1999 in the three months to February.

But year-on-year employment growth has slowed to 2.5 percent, according to provisional figures for the second quarter, compared to 3.4 percent in the first quarter, according to the Census and Statistics Department.

Though well off levels of around 6 percent seen during Asia's 1997-1998 financial crisis, the jobless rate was high compared to pre-crisis norms of around 2 percent.

Many economists expected more layoffs to come especially in the trade sector, which fuelled much of the job creation last year. Job fears were also being compounded by changes in the structure of the territory's economy, which created a mismatch between posts on offer and the skills of jobseekers as local corporates attempt to upgrade.

There are also fears that growing numbers of Hong Kong companies will shift their back-office operations to mainland China to take advantage of lower costs. *Reuters*

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The Board of Directors, Management and Employees of

STEEL ASIA

deeply mourn the demise of its

Chairman Emeritus,

BENITO YAO HAW KUN

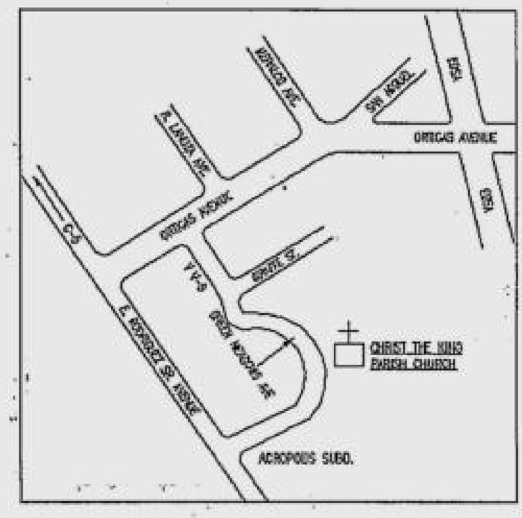
who died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on July 31, 2001 at 11:45 a.m. at the age of 95.

He is survived by his loving wife **Pilar Omlas Yao**; children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Parish Church, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment follows at the Manila Memorial Park in Dasmariñas, Cavite after the Funeral Mass on Tuesday, August 7, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. at the Christ the King Parish Church, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City.

The faithful readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.



SALVADOR D. TENORIO

Joined the company of his Creator
on August 1, 2001 at the age of 88.

His bereaved wife **Avelina**; and loving children **Edgar** and **Esther**, **Susan** and **Andy**, **Renee** and **Danny**, **Vyvian** and **Matt**, **Cynthia** and **Erfie** together with grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request for prayers for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Park Chapels in Marikina where Masses will be said everyday at 7:30 PM.

Interment will be held on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the Mass at 9:00 AM.

'GIGI'
GUILLERMO GASPAR R. MACARIOLA

Died August 1, 2001 at the age of 54.

His wife **Luchie**; children **Goergie**, **Ida**, **Paola Dominique**, **Lawrence Andrew**, **Angeline**, **Paulo**, **Pi-ann**, **John Gabriel** and **Alexandra Nicols**; granddaughters **Geraldine** and **Geraline**; brothers and sisters **Sonia**, **Vicente**, **Virgilio**, **Reina**, **Medalla**, **Rebecca** and **Danilo**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

His interment will be on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at 3:00 PM at the Garden of Memories, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City. Final Mass will be at 1:00 PM at the Chapel in Guadalupe.

> *"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."*
> *John 11:25-26*

NOEL "BUTCH" Q. MARQUEZ

Palanan, Makati City
(1954-2001)
Died on July 30, 2001

The Marquez family and all his loved ones request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 04, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

AUGUSTO CRUZ-FABROS

of Las Piñas

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on 30 July 2001 at the age of 51.

He is survived by his wife **Henrietta Austero-Fabros**; children **Mark Henry** and **Herlyn Grace**; brothers, sisters, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, nephews and nieces.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Chapel, Dr. A. Santos, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 5, 2001.

SRTA. ALMA FERRAZ y QUIAZON

20 de Junio 1918 — 1 de Agosto 2001

Entrego su alma al Creador el primer dia de Agosto 2001

*Sus desconsolados hermanos y hermanas **Cecilia (†)**, **Ida**, **Carlos (†)**, **Anotonio (†)**, **Francisco**, **Josefina (†)**, **Pablo**, **Coty (†)** y **Sr. Carlota FMM**, cuñados y cuñadas, sobrinos y sobrinas y demas parientes ruegan al piadoso lector de rezar por su eterno descanso.*

Esta el cuerpo presente en Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe.

El entierro se verificara en 5 de Agosto 2001 despues de la Misa de 8:00 a.m.

Se omiten coronas.

In Loving Memory of
Emelita Angeles Vidanes, MD
on the First Anniversary of her Death.

Holy Mass will be celebrated on August 3, 2001 at:
Mt. Carmel Parish Church, Project 6, Quezon City, 6:00 a.m.
Las Piñas Integrated District Hospital, Las Piñas, 10:00 a.m.
Jose Reyes Memorial Med. Center, Sta. Cruz, Manila, 12:00 nn.
San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish Church,
Tandang Sora, Quezon City, 6:30 p.m.

We love you, Mommy.

> ***"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."***
> **2 Cor. 5:4-5**

"All things work together for the good of those who love Him, and for those whom He has called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:28

Col. FELIBERTO B. CAVOSORA (Ret.)

of Babatngon, Leyte
Philippine Military Academy Class 1952
22 August 1928 – 30 July 2001

His bereaved wife **AIDA**; beloved children **RICHARD, AURORA & MATTHEW DALY, AMELIA** and **MARIE**; loving sisters and brothers, nephews and nieces; other relatives, friends, colleagues, fellow veterans and retirees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, request the pious reader to pray for the happy repose of his soul.

On Friday, August 3, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. his remains will be transferred from the mortuary behind St. Ignatius Cathedral to the Veterans Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, where necrological services will be held at 7:00 p.m.

On Saturday, August 4, 2001, interment will be at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani Fort Bonifacio after the Mass of the Resurrection at 10:30 a.m. at the nearby St. Michael Church.

---

*Our beloved **Norman** is safely home now at last with Christ our Lord.*

The Almario Family

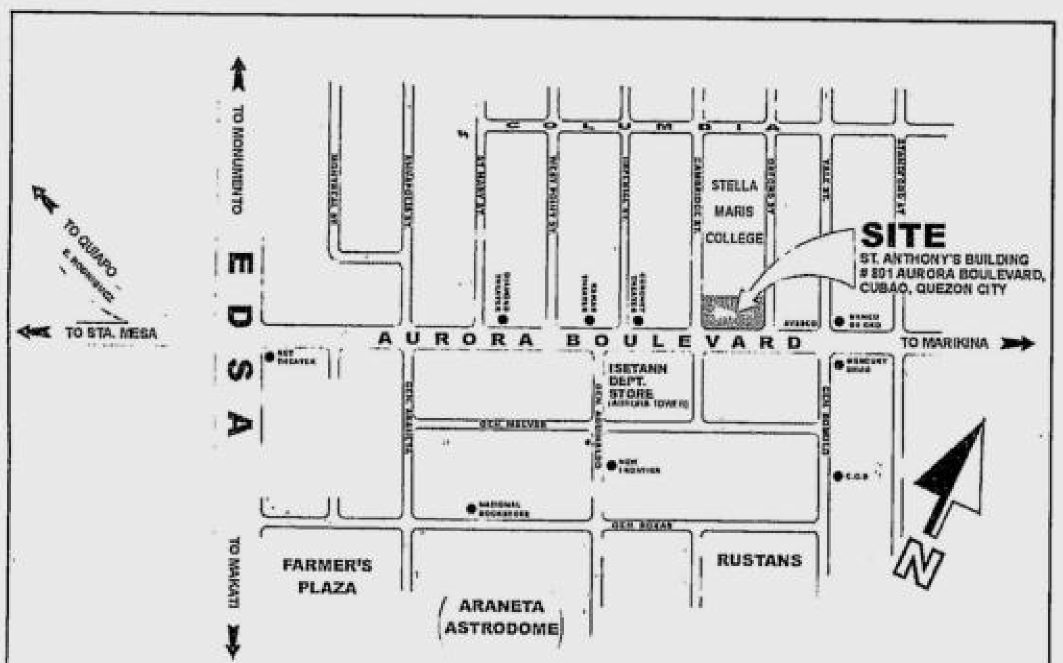
ENGR. NORMAN DECENA ALMARIO

of SEMPCO, Inc.
Went up to heaven at the age of 59.

His bereaved mother **Pura**; brothers **Rey** and **Jesse**; sisters **Mona Liza** and **Elvira, Aurora, Patricia**; children **Yvonee, Barbara, Frederick, Armand, Michael** and nephews, nieces and other relatives request all to be glad and rejoice that he is free at last of pain and suffering and is now at peace with God.

Norman's body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on August 7, 2001 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches.



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The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures; He
leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul...
I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23)

Edgardo T. Kalaw

(October 8, 1921 – July 29, 2001)

*Our beloved **"Hadji"** peacefully joined his Creator on July 29th in California, U.S.A.*

His wife **Corito**; children **Paula & Boy Feria, Vicky & Tony Ang, Eddie & Pinky, Corina & Ricky Monfort**; grandchildren **Aldous, Patricia, Derek, Chesa, Carissa, Angela, & Sabine**; and his siblings request friends and relatives to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will lie in state at Capilla de la Virgen, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park on August 5th and 6th.

Interment will be held after the Funeral Mass at 4:00 p.m. at St. James Church in Ayala Alabang on Tuesday, August 7, 2001.

EUSEBIO C. TIONG

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 30, 2001 at the age of 83.

His loving children **Emeline** and **John**, **Benjamin** and **Evelyn**, **Leonard** and **Linda**; grandchildren **Pierre** and **Cherry**, **Michele**, **Ann**, **Jay**, **Tiffany** and **Francis**, **Neil**, **Ivan**, **Steven**, **Oliver**, **Valerie**; great grandchildren **Matthew**, **Nathan**, **Hans**, **Charine** request for your prayers.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite, after the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Good nutrition for better diabetes control

THE FIRST step to managing blood sugar levels is good nutrition. Having diabetes does not mean you have to miss out on the pleasures of food and go hungry. All you have to do is reconsider your food choices and consume the right amount. Here are some points to consider when you do your nutrition reevaluation.

Make sure you get enough vitamins, minerals and fiber from your diet so include starchy vegetables like corn, squash and potato. Plant foods like cereals, bread, rice and pasta, aside from being a rich source of carbohydrates, is loaded with fiber if they are made from whole grains.

Other natural sources of fiber are fresh fruits and vegetables, especially those varieties whose skin is edible and dried beans, peas or lentils. Fiber reduces some blood fats and cuts back sugar absorption after each meal.

They always say you can never have too much of a good thing. That applies to fruits and vegetables but never to fat, salt and sugar. You could never eliminate fat from your diet, and you should not anyway. Just make sure you limit your intake by preferring fish to meat. You could have an occasional cut of chicken breast without the skin or lean meat with the fat trimmed in instances when you want to give yourself a treat.

If you like eggs, two or three is enough in a week. For recipes which asks for whole eggs, you could hold the yolk and use the egg whites to cut back the cholesterol. Buy skim instead of whole milk or light and low sodium margarine rather than butter. Bake, roast, broil or simmer your food but if you have to cook in oil, use olive, canola or peanut oil.

People with diabetes are prone to high blood pressure. Excessive salt in your diet is one of the major culprits. Less salt means less susceptibility. Processed meats like *tocino*, bacon, hotdogs, longganisa and canned meat products have high salt content. So do instant noodles and soups.

So even if you are conscious that your meals be low in salt, what you add to your food could be that which is high in salt. Be wary of mustard, catsup, steak sauces or seasonings like *patis, toyo* and *bagoong*. You could always substitute them with natural herbs and spices like garlic, onion, lemon juice, thyme, basil, or oregano. The choice of spices range from A to Z.

The common notion is a person with diabetes misses out on the sweet things in life. Of course, you don't. If you keep your blood sugar levels in check, a small portion of the dessert won't do any harm. Besides, there are available substitutes for sugar like aspartame, saccharin and acesulfame K.

A beer or a glass of wine now and then is fine, too, unless your doctor or nutritionist-dietitian insists you shouldn't for certain reasons. The best thing to do is to ask your doctor or a registered nutritionist-dietitian for a personal meal plan. You will be given a detailed diet that fits your lifestyle and agrees with the medicine you take.

A meal plan like this may be difficult to follow. Mead Johnson knows that your lifestyle is as hectic and as fast-paced as the next person's so it has come up with a product just for you. It's called Choice DM. In an era of food supplement beverages for people who are always on the go, Choice DM is formulated specifically for people with diabetes. It's got 25 vitamins and minerals, including 100 percent of the US RDAs for vitamins E and C, and it's also lactose-free. It even has fiber and is clinically shown to lower blood sugar response. What more, you don't have to crave for that small portion of the dessert since Choice DM tastes like ice cream and comes in two flavors, plain and chocolate. It's so complete one can is equivalent to one meal.

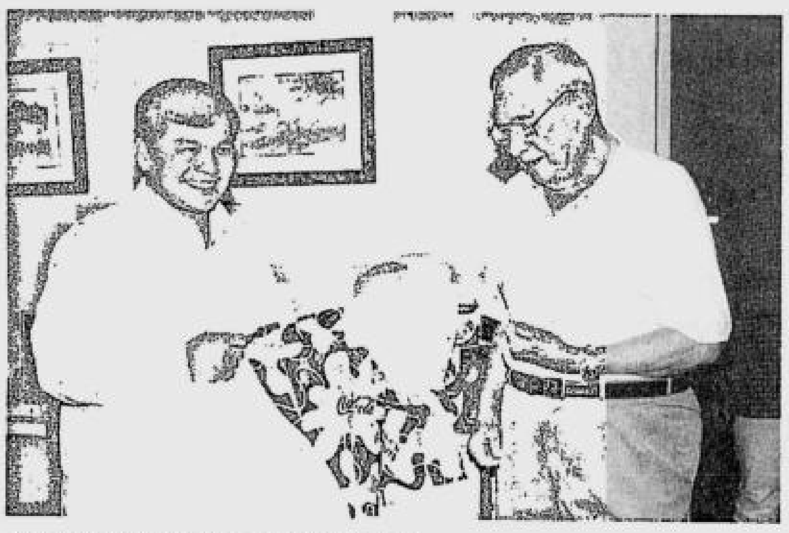
That's not all though. Some women suddenly develop an increased resistance to the cellular action of insulin during their third semester. Maternal insulin in these cases should be 30 percent higher than normal or it could result in maternal and fetal hyperglycemia which could lead to gestational diabetes. The market now is teeming with food supplement beverages for pregnant women. If you are pregnant and require strict glycemic control, you need not miss out on the convenience and benefits of such a product because Choice DM is perfect for you, too.

HABITAT GATHERS LEADERS WORLDWIDE

On its 25th anniversary, Habitat for Humanity International celebrates this milestone by concluding a landmark event called World Leaders Build, a worldwide building activity to be participated in by 68 country affiliates from Aug. 6 to 11. Shown is the chair of the steering committee Fernando Zobel de Ayala (seventh from left, standing), and members (second to fifth from left, sitting) Rina Bautista, Marixi Prieto, Frank Padilla, Margie Moran-Floirendo, (standing) Robert Kuan (second from left) Paolo Aquino (third from left), Mike Defensor (fifth from left), Erly de Guzman (sixth from left), Jose Abueva (eighth from left) and Pedro Roxas (standing, right). Also shown are Rory Tolentino (left, sitting) of Ayala Foundation, Berry Marfori (third from right, standing) of Ayala Corp., Joseph Peter Sison (left, standing) of NHA, Jiji Reyes (fourth from left, standing) of HUDCC and Claire Algarme (second from right, standing) of Habitat for Humanity Philippines. For inquiries, contact the World Leaders Build secretariat at 638-8012, trunk line 637-8700 local 225, fax number 638-8009 or 638-8010 and look for Vivien Abesamis.

OUTSTANDING PRC AWARDEE

Dr. Erlinda Villestas-Reyes was chosen outstanding professional awardee 2001 for optometry by the Professional Regulation Commission recently at the PICC. Shown are (from left) Margie Gumamela, Dr. Tonette Sabido IPAO secretary; Dr. Jake Flor, dean of college of Optometry; Dr. Eligio Catalan Jr., IPAO VP; Dr. Nash Lagman of the board of trustees; Dr. Victoria Ramos, IPAO national president; awardee Villestas-Reyes; Dr. Charlie Ho, IPAO past president; Dr. Zeny Mamaclay; Dr. Minda Timtiman and Dr. Adelia Rodriguez, member of the board of trustees.



'KAPOTES' TO EASE TRAFFIC

Dunkin Donuts recently donated 2,000 'kapotes' (raincoats) to the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for distribution to members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and to the traffic enforcers of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for this rainy season. DILG Secretary Joey Lina holds a Dunkin' Donuts 'kapote' while Leo Prieto, chair of Golden Donuts Inc. looks at the 'kapote' sample. The donation of 2,000 'kapotes' is in the spirit of achieving progress through good public service as exemplified by Golden Donuts Inc., the exclusive Philippine licensee of Dunkin' Donuts America.

Blue Circle partners with MDi-Nortel

BLUE Circle Philippines, a cement-manufacturing firm that carries the brands Republic Cement, Iligan Cement and Fortune Cement, has embarked on a project enabling efficient and reliable 24/7 communication. It has partnered with MDi (formerly Micro-D International). MDi is the country's pioneer in network and system integration, with leading technology partners in convergence (data and voice), cabling, networking, computing, eSecurity and CRM applications. For this project, managed by its cabling and telephony (CTD) group, MDi brought in its large enterprise convergence partner – Nortel Networks. MDi installed Nortel Meridian 1 PABX systems that can accommodate hundreds of lines/ports, Nortel ISDN and Wide Area Network (WAN) equipment.

Nortel Networks delivers the economics and quality of networking through its Unified Networks platform that promises collaboration, communications and commerce through convergence of voice, video and data infrastructure. With the advanced communications infrastructure in place, Blue Circle can now maximize transactions from the main office to, and among, its four provincial offices.

FROM ISRAEL WITH LOVE

Paintings from children around the world illustrating the Bible were donated to the Museo Pambata last June 14. The event was held as part of the activity of the Museum and the Israel Embassy for the street children. Ambassador Irit Ben-Abba (center) and executive director Nina Yuson (back turned to camera) are shown interacting with street children as they talk about the Bible stories illustrated in the paintings. They also shared with the children information about Israel's culture, geography, history and famous stories told about the country of Israel. The embassy provided art materials to the street children for them to draw their image of Israel. The embassy also had a storytelling activity with the children where the children interacted with an Israeli storyteller. This storytelling will be a continuing cooperation of the Museum and the embassy for the streetchildren, that will be held once a month.

Clips

Miriam College hosts WNCAA

IN CELEBRATION of its 75th diamond anniversary, Miriam College will host the 32nd sports season of the Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) this school year. The theme for the 75th anniversary is Vision and Values Through Sports for a New Century. The WNCAA season opens at 8 a.m. on Aug. 4, Saturday, at the University of Life (Ultra) in Pasig City. The presidents of all the participating schools will grace the occasion. Miriam College president Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan will give the welcome remarks.

K of C installation of council officers

THE KNIGHTS of Columbus, Palanan Council 6677, Barangay Palanan, Makati City will hold its installation of council officers on Aug. 4, 6 p.m. at the 2nd floor of Dreamhaus Restaurant, Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila. PGK SK Armando Villamero, newly appointed and instaled district deputy of M-57 will be the guest of honor and installation officer. Rev. Fr. Reynaldo B. Bungay, worthy council chaplain and parish priest of the St. Joseph The Worker Parish and PGK SK Emmanuel R. Regala, worthy former district warden will assist in the said installation of officers.

Parenting workshop

MARQFED International, home of the well-loved 7-step Learning Program invites the public to a parenting workshop entitled "Raising Children in the 21st Century". The workshop will feature Marqfed's 7-step Learning Program, a fresh approach to creative parenting. Interested parents will be participating in open-group discussions as well as be informed of the latest, highly effective home-based educational programs. Maricar Gustillo-de Ocampo, well-known child educator and author of the bestseller book: "Your Guide to Pre Schools in Metro Manila" is the guest speaker. This event takes place on Aug. 4, 1:30 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club, Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Those interested may call Marqfed at 892-5108, 816-3981 or 0917-4023007 for reservations.

PCC high school class '71 reunion

THE high school class '71 of Pasig Catholic College will hold its reunion on Aug. 10-12 billed "30 na Kami." A holy mass will start the affair on Friday, 6 p.m. at the PCC campus then will proceed at Ralf's Resort on Km. 59 Los Baños, Laguna the next day. Councilor Obet Barretto will chair the reunion. For inquiries, call Egay Geronimo at 633-7806 or 0919-2175726, Diony Chua at 641-2759, Ric Lacson at 0917-6002564 or PB1481740685 and Gil Cruz at 643-9745.

Young advocates: Sunday, family fun day

THE YOUNG Advocates launch the Sunday Fun Day event for the whole family. Exciting contests, games, mascot shows, craft demonstrations, face paintings and story-telling sessions will be prepared week after week starting Aug. 5 at the 4th level, Edsa Node, Robinsons Galleria, Quezon City. This is for the many families that have made Robinsons Galleria their favorite Sunday destination. And here's good news to the members of every family. Now is your chance to preserve important family moments and win prizes, too, as Memory Box launches as part of the Sunday Fun day event a scrapbook-making contest for the family. Open to three members of a family, the contest will run on Aug. 5, 12 and 19, with judging day on the 26th. For more information, call 637-4586 or 242-1247.

Hot sizzling recipes at SM Megamall

JOIN the San Miguel Food Group Culinary Center as they show you how to prepare "Hot Sizzling Recipes" on Aug. 3, Friday at 2 p.m. at the Entertainment Area, Building A of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong. Learn new and delicious recipes from Monterey, CampoCarne, Magnolia Chicken, Magnolia Butter and Magnolia Quickmelt you can easily prepare at home for your family. Be ready for games and raffle prizes. This event is co-sponsored by Tefal, La Germania, Glad Wraps and Bags and Petron Gasul. Admission is free. For more information, call 671-9876 to 91 locals 402 to 405.

Fruit carving course

LEARN how to make the foods you serve more visually exciting with fruit and vegetable carvings. ProActive Center for Training (PACT) offers its "How to Garnish with Fruit and Vegetable Carving" workshop on Aug. 3, 1-5 p.m. at Encore! Encore!, 2/L Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Reservations and inquiries are accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis at 823-4947, 0919-5500601 or e-mail at pactserv@info.com.ph. Visit PACT's website at www.info.com.ph/~pactserv.

OFFICE XP DEMO

Microsoft Philippines managing director Richard Francis demos an exciting feature of Office XP, Microsoft's newest productivity tool. Looking on are hosts Martin Nievera and Office XP international product manager Scott Wilson. Microsoft Office XP was launched last week at the Rockwell Tent., Sponsors include Dell, PLDT, Compaq and Intel.

LAFARGE
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FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001 8:00 a.m. TO 12:00 noon

RIZAL MEDICAL MISSION

FR Cement (a subsidiary of La Farge Cement), in cooperation with MediCard Philippines Inc. sponsored last July 20 a medical mission for the community of Barangay Dulumbayan, Teresa, Rizal. FR Cement's Andres Zabala (HR-administrative manager) and Roel Maligaya (community relations officer), in a joint effort with MediCard's Lulu Dadia (corporate account manager) and Estrella Aquino (account manager), together with Dulumbayan barangay captain Raul Palino, spearheaded the outreach program. Also present from MediCard were Dr. Nicanor Montoya (president), Luis Montoya (EVP and GM), Aristotle Salas (treasurer and assistant to the EVP and GM), Voltaire Victoria (marketing and sales manager), Eric Bunyog and Robert Chainani (marketing assistant supervisors). The outreach program comprising of free medical consultations, medicines and dental extractions--courtesy of FR Cement's in-house dentist Dr. Geraldine Tamayo--was able to address the health needs of almost 300 families.

Tax implications of foreclosure

TAX-FILES

BY ALLENIEREY V. EXCLAMADOR
SGV & Co.

THE GENERAL Banking Law of 2000 provides that people can still save their property from being foreclosed within three months or as long as the certificate of foreclosure sale has not yet been registered with the Register of Deeds.

This provision effectively repealed the one-year redemption period under the old law.

The BIR, however, is yet to issue the revenue regulations governing the payment of taxes in case the banks register the certificate of sale and acquire the property within the three-month period.

Consequently, the issue now is when should the banks pay the applicable taxes, i.e. capital gains tax (CGT) and documentary stamp tax (DST) without the BIR revenue regulations.

Stated another way, can the bank defer the payment of the applicable for one year from the date of foreclosure sale?

It is submitted that the bank cannot defer payment of the capital gains tax and documentary stamp tax until after one year from the date of foreclosure sale of mortgaged real properties owned by judicial persons.

As a rule, capital gains on the sale of lands or buildings that are not used in the business of a corporation and treated as capital assets are subject to a final tax of 6 percent (Section 27D(5), Tax Code).

The sale of lands or buildings is also subject to the DST pursuant to Section 196 of the Tax Code based on the selling price or on its fair market value or zonal value, whichever is higher:

- P15 when the selling price or the fair market/zonal value, whichever is higher, does not exceed P 1,000.
- P15 for each additional P1,000, or fractional part thereof in excess of P1,000.

In the past, there has been confusion as to when the 6-percent capital gains tax and DST are due in the case of extrajudicial foreclosure of mortgaged real property.

The reason for the confusion apparently lies in the fact that the transfer of title is not absolute. This is because the sale is subject to the right of the mortgagor to redeem the property within one year from the registration of the certificate of sale in the Registry of Deeds, as provided under Act No. 3135.

To settle the confusion relative to the payment of the (CGT) and DST on extrajudicial foreclosure sale of capital assets initiated by banks, finance and insurance companies, the BIR issued Revenue Regulations No. 4-99 dated March 9, 1999.

The salient features of the said regulation are as follows:

Capital gains tax (Section 3)

1. If the mortgagor exercises his right of redemption within one year from the issuance of the certificate of sale, no capital gains tax shall be imposed because no capital gain has been derived by the mortgagor and no sale or transfer of real property was realized.

2. In case of non-redemption, the capital gains tax on the foreclosure sale imposed under Sections 24(D)(1) and 27(D)(5) of the Tax Code of 1997 shall become due based on the bid price of the highest bidder.

Documentary stamp tax (Section 4)

1. If the mortgagor exercises his right of redemption, the transaction shall only be subject to the P15 DST imposed under Section 188 of the Tax Code of 1997 because no land or realty was sold or transferred for a consideration.

2. In case of non-redemption, the DST pursuant to Section 196 of the Tax Code of 1997. The tax return shall be filed within 10 days after the close of the month following the lapse of the one-year redemption period. The tax due under Section 196 of the Tax Code of 1997 shall be paid based on the bid price at the same time the aforesaid return is filed.

The rule, therefore, under RR No. 4-99 is that the CGT and DST on the foreclosure sale of real property are due only upon the expiration of the redemption period.

Previously, in the case of foreclosure of mortgage by banks, finance and insurance companies whether judicial or extrajudicial, the mortgagor has the right of legal redemption of one year from the registration of the certificate of sale (Quimson vs PNB, L-24920, Nov. 24, 1970). It is humbly submitted however, the said rule has been modified by Section 47 of RA No. 8791, which provides:

"Sections 47. Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage.—x x x

"Notwithstanding Act 3135, juridical persons whose property is being sold pursuant to an extrajudicial foreclosure, shall have the right to redeem the property in accordance with this provision until, but not after, the registration of the certificate of foreclosure sale with the applicable Register of Deeds which in no case shall be more than **three months** after foreclosure, whichever is earlier. x x x" (emphasis supplied)

Thus, under Section 47 of RA 8791, the mortgagor must exercise his right to redeem before the certificate of sale is registered or not more than three months after foreclosure. In other words, the mortgagor may redeem the foreclosed real property prior to the registration of the certificate of foreclosure sale with the Registry of Deeds.

For example, if the certificate of foreclosure sale is registered on the second month from date of foreclosure but the mortgagor did not redeem the property prior to the registration, then the mortgagor lost the right to redeem the property even if the three-month period has not yet lapsed.

On the other hand, if the certificate of foreclosure is registered on the first day of the fourth month from date of foreclosure but the mortgagor did not redeem the property, then the mortgagor cannot anymore redeem the property since the three-month period has already lapsed.

It is submitted that Section 47 of RA 8791 modified the application of Revenue Regulations No. 4-99 insofar as the one-year redemption period for corporate borrowers is concerned.

Retailers move against fraud

THE RETAIL industry is out to help curb credit card fraud, which is victimizing clients around the world.

This developed as the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA), the national organization of retailers, called on a credit card technology expert to help the industry address this urgent problem.

The PRA has tapped MasterCard International vice president and Asia Pacific head Esmond Chan for the strategies against this organized crime.

Chan is an expert security and risk management professional who has an extensive experience in handling financial fraud, corporate security risks, and law enforcement in the region.

He will discuss the repercussions of credit card fraud and how it can be deterred by the retail industry at the PRA's 10th National Retailers Conference at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on August 15-17.

He will be joined by Lirio 0. Mapa who will speak on "Principle-Centered Customer Service."

Mapa is the first Filipino to be accredited as master facilitator by Stephen R. Covey, the author of the best-selling "7 Habits of Highly Effective People."

An acclaimed authority in organizational development, total quality and corporate training at the Center for Leadership and Change, Mapa will discuss retailer-customer relationship and the time-tested formula on how to keep customers coming back.

"It is easier and less expensive to keep existing customers than to acquire new ones," she says.

Other topics to be discussed by various speakers are Store Planning, Design and Concepts; Retailing: A Global Perspective; Professionalizing the Family Business; and Branding for Success.

Teresita Sy-Coson of SM will keynote the conference while Trade Secretary Mar Roxas will speak on the prospects of the Philippine economy and the future of retailing. Other details can be obtained from the PRA *(Tel. No. 687-4180, 687-4985; pager 127767030; and email pra@nwave.net).*

BANK CEO Annemarie Durbin, Alabang Branch manager Abigail del Rosario and a lady client of the branch.

SCB's new card

THE LAUNCHING of the Standard Chartered Visa electron saw the fusion of two international financial leaders in one unique product.

Leading the launch were dynamic lady executives, Standard Chartered chief executive Annemarie Durbin and Visa International senior country manager June Seah. Durbin and Seah noted with pride the unrivaled advantages of having a Standard Chartered Visa Electron, a signature-based debit card that is accepted in over 8 million establishments worldwide.

Clients of Standard Chartered from Makati, Ortigas, Quezon City and Alabang trooped to the launch, which was hosted by Standard Chartered finance senior vice president Sanjay Uppal and marketing services manager Joyce Lim.

Other SCB executives present at the launch were wealth management head Tony Robles; head of sales and distribution Tonette delos Reyes; area branch manager Leslie Cham; and branch managers Ronnie Austria, Wilma Lim and Abigail del Rosario.

Speaking before the toast, Durbin reiterated the long-term commitment of Standard Chartered in the Philippines as exemplified in this unique product, and in its newly infused investment in the country with its recent upgrade as a universal bank. Most importantly, she noted that Standard Chartered is the only foreign bank in the Philippines that features the Visa Electron.

In turn, Seah formally introduced the features of the SCB Visa Electron card.

As an international ATM and debit card, the SCB Visa Electron card offers the convenience and security of paying for purchases and can be used to access cash in over 640,000 ATMs around the globe and in 100,000 local BancNet and Megalink ATMs. Three supplementary cardholders can also use the SCB Visa Electron card. Access limits can also be assigned to supplementary cardholders, giving the principal cardholder control of his account.

Standard Chartered Bank Philippines is part of the international network of over 615 branches and offices in more than 55 countries with 32,000 employees. In the Philippines since 1872, it is the first foreign bank. Recently, the Monetary Board of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas upgraded its status as a universal bank.

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Helping SMEs debut in the big arena

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has tried time and again to convince small and medium enterprises to list their shares and sell these to the public. Some heeded the call but a subsequent review of their finance and operations structures showed that many are not yet ready after all to join the ranks of the listed companies.

This is where the Philippine Electronic Network for Growth Industries and the New Economy (Philengine) hopes to come in, according to Philengine general manager Jose Fernando T. Alcantara.

Alcantara formerly headed the business development group of the PSE, which headed the efforts to put up the trading board for the shares of small and medium enterprises.

Philengine is designed and structured to help strengthen SMEs to make them qualify for public listing by providing short- to medium-term business finance and service support needs of SMEs and fledgling information technology companies via the Internet.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE
PSE INDEX
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WITH adequate financing and training, SMEs stand a better chance of having their shares listed on the exchange.

It is a joint project between institutions such as the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Small Business Guarantee Finance Corp. and the private sector.

Philengine's electronic system facilitates the search and match between the SMEs and the banks for transactions such as credit financing, receivables financing, chattel mortgage and equipment financing, product packaging, market expansion, swap financing and lease-purchase financing.

"We help provide their business financing needs, thereby helping them establish a good credit record with the banks and the financial community which they need if they want to apply for listing on the SME board of the PSE," Alcantara explained.

Alcantara stressed that the SMEs' growth has been stifled in previous years by inadequate access to financing at competitive rates.

The banks are the usual source of financing but the rates are prohibitive and the banks have stiffer requirements such as collateral and a long track record. It also takes some time to get any response.

"Through Philengine, the process is cut short because they can apply electronically and we will be able to diagnose and advise the SMEs on what they would require and where they can get it. Their requirements will be matched automatically with the partner financial institutions. If there is a match then they can get the funds immediately," he says.

Philengine commits to a transaction cost of at least one-half of one percent lower than the prevailing rate because they can aggregate the requirements of the different SMEs and forward these to the banks or the other financial institutions willing to support the development of the SMEs.

"Philengine is designed and structured as a nursery market facility covering the whole critical stages of business growth process from inception, to registration to providing financial and business support services. This is the basis for its formation as the total SME development market geared to ensure global business positioning and competitiveness of SMEs," Alcantara adds.

Philengine also got the support of the trade department and the local government units to provide Internet access facility to SMEs who have yet to get a computer.

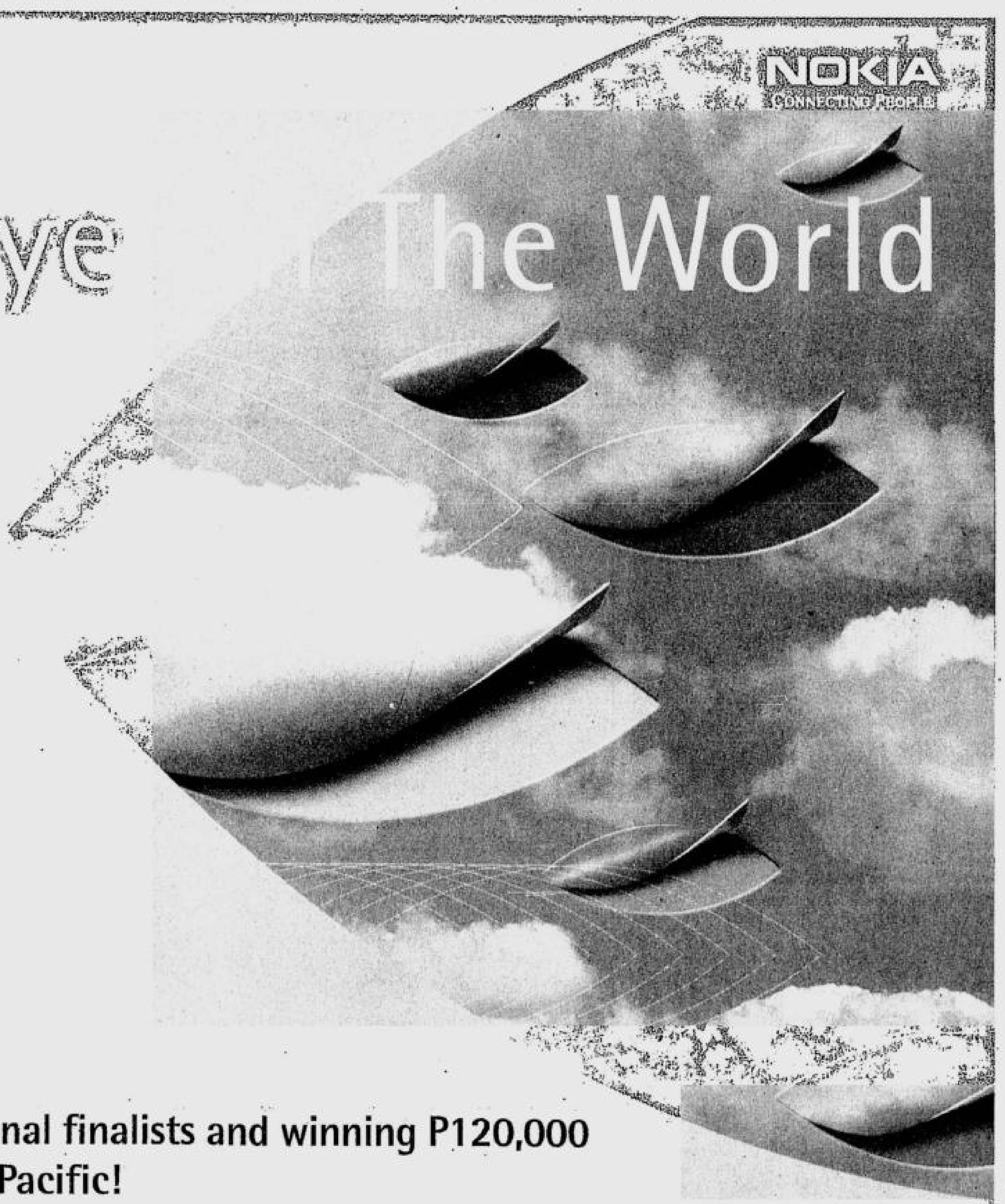
"Philengine expects to tap at least 10 percent of the estimated P100 billion currently existing funds and financing programs allocated for SME financing and development," he adds.

There is a huge market out there considering that over 80 percent of the corporations in the Philippines are considered SMEs. The PSE considers companies with a maximum capitalization of P20 million as SMEs.

Alcantara says Philengine compliments the PSE's thrust to get more companies to list on the SME board by getting the SMEs used to different kinds of financial transactions, and to help them establish a good track record.

"The SME board provides corporate capital to the SMEs but they must have a profitability track record of two years. We can help the SMEs meet these listing criteria of the PSE," he says.

Alcantara adds that Philengine does not want to become a mere provider of financial assistance. Its ultimate goal at the end of its four-year development plan is to form fund portfolios dedicated to financing SMEs within the market.



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For more information, please call Stockland Worldwide Images Studio, Inc. at (02) 812-9698.

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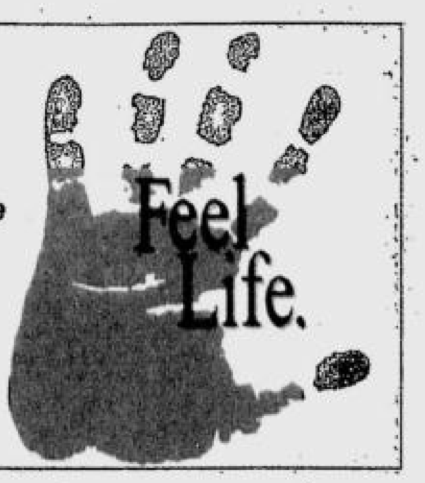

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Trend Spotting

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ANDROMEDA. Dancer Elizabeth Roxas wears strands of purple quartz, black sandstone, purple fluorite, amethyst, beige Swarovski crystals, clear quartz tubes.

When maturity becomes the dancer

Story on C3

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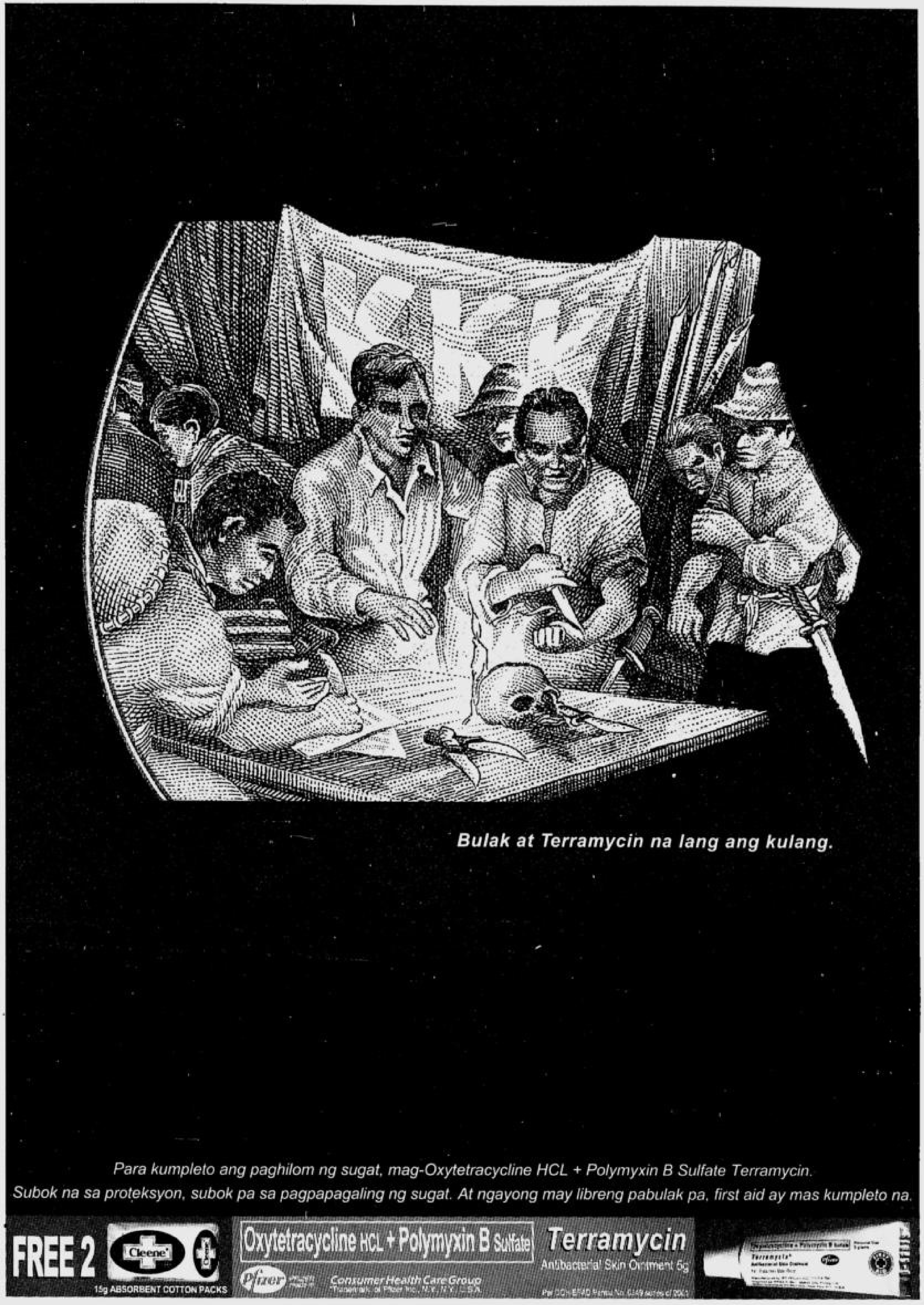

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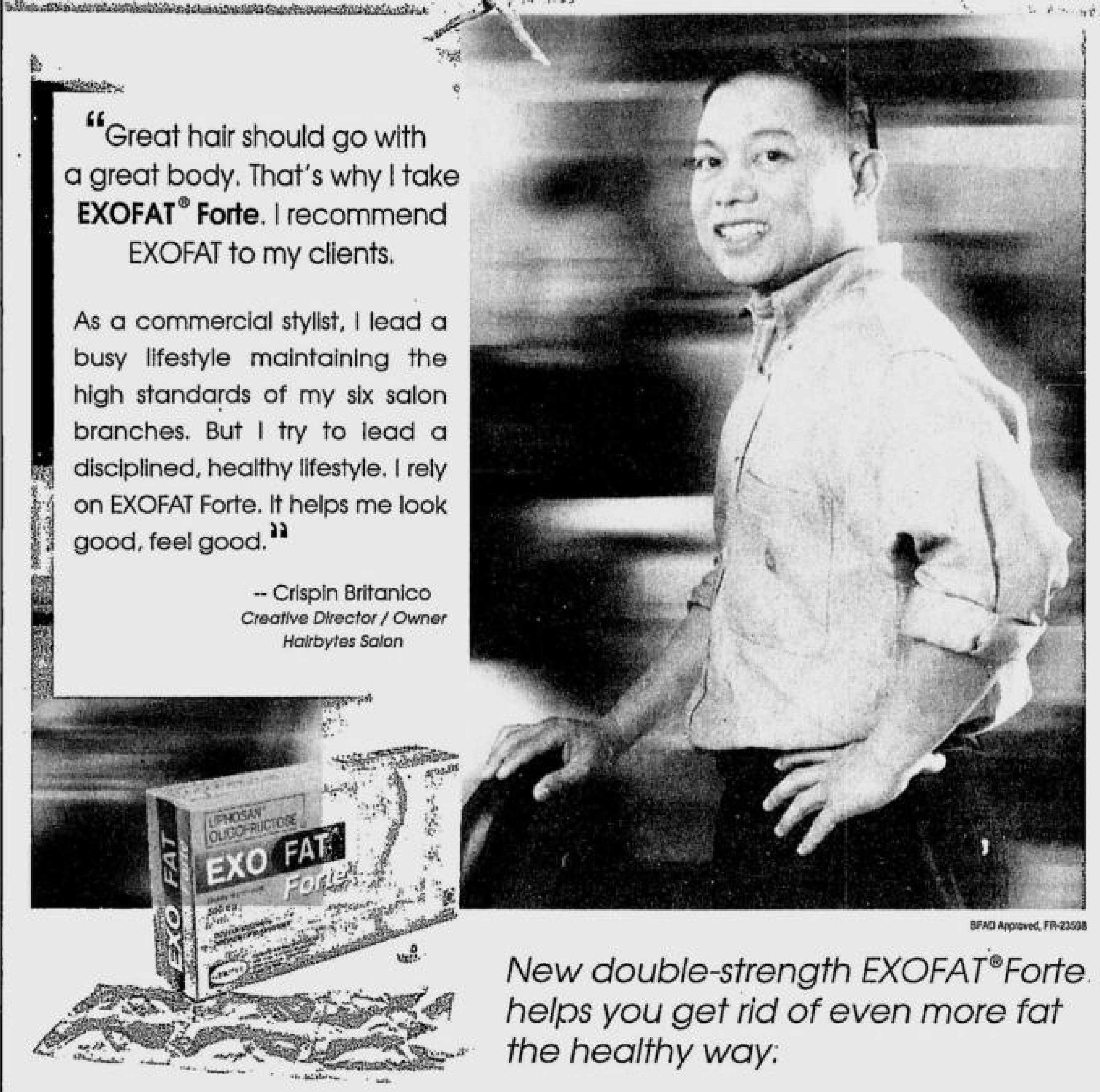

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New process for hair straightening is safe

HAIRDRESSER Ricky Reyes introduces PermaStraight, a new technology for hair straightening that uses a safe process that does not damage the hair and scalp.

You can achieve sleek, neat, shiny and straight hair even if your locks are kinky, curly or wavy. PermaStraight promises to turn ugly, unruly hair into something, which looks a shampoo commercial.

Model-TV actress Wilma Doesnt is among those who recently said goodbye to the kinky hair she was born with. Doesnt is extremely pleased with how Reyes, using PermaStraight, has given her the hair she has long wanted. She said her hair was now easier to manage.

Reyes said he avoided doing hair straightening before because there was no safe product available. PermaStraight is a multistep process available at all Ricky Reyes salons. The process involves, among others, applying protein-rich solutions and scalp protecting oil and iron perming of the hair. The hair is divided into small sections which are pressed one by one.

Call Reyes' Straight Hair Hotline 721-7705.

WILMA Doesnt sports the '70s straight look.

Black and white redux

OPPOSITES attract as positive/negative fashion forces converge in SM's new black-and-white collection.

Black and white, after all, is said to be the new black. And in its latest reincarnation, stripes of all bandwidths—pin stripes, candy stripes, awning stripes—add graphic glamour to this classic look.

Updated in halter, tube and ribbed tank tops, the black-and-white collection is available at the Girls-Teens Department of all SM stores.

WHITE tube with black-and-white striped band on the upper hemline worn with black capri pants

New mascara does not cause lashes to fall off

MAYBELLINE'S Full N' Soft Mascara, a revolutionary breakthrough in lash care technology, is now available nationwide.

Full N' Soft gives full, thick-looking lashes and also protects lashes. Being easy to remove, the mascara does not cause lashes to fall off. The secret is a patented hair-care technology delivery system that dispenses Vitamin E directly unto the lashes. It results in full, lush lashes that are soft, supple and healthy.

Full N' Soft also has deep, rich color. Made of a polysaccharide resin (a new pigment disperser), the formula glides on smoothly and distributes pigment from root to tip.

A unique soft set system coats and protects lashes, keeping them flexible, supple and pliable for up to eight hours while a special quick dissolve formula facilitates easy removal.

Aside from Vitamin E, lashes are also enriched with panthenol and ceramide, ingredients that help keep lash cuticles smooth and healthy-looking.

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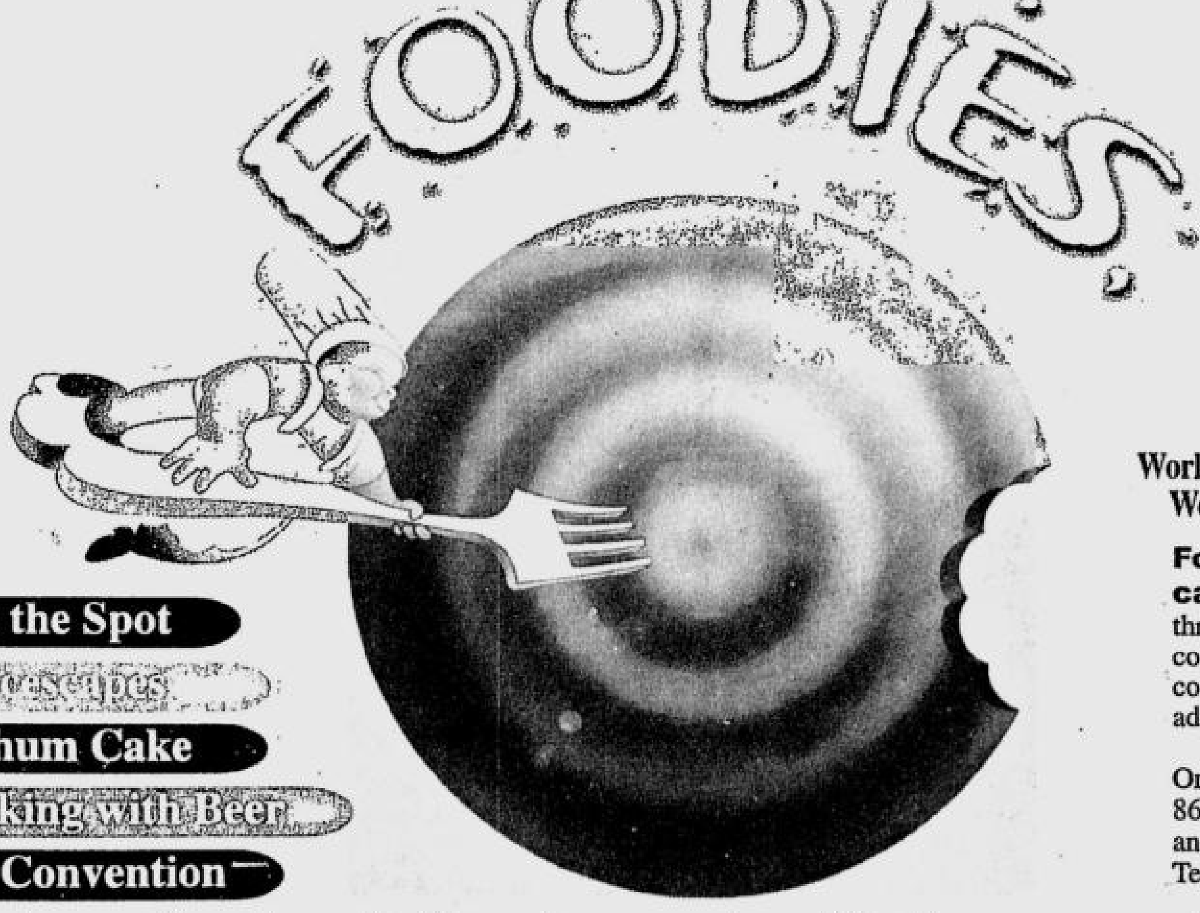

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WOMAN OF PASSION. She's wrapped in strands of citrine with rare chlorite stones, keishi pearls and Swarovski crystals.

When maturity becomes the dancer

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Wahoo Guerrero

BY TODAY'S standards, the age range of 40 to 50 is young, yet mature. It's that passage in life when you sum up and harvest the fruits of your personal experience and stockpile them away for the future. It's the time to sift the spirit of what you've learned, pressing truth from your discoveries. It's the time to start a new cycle in life.

This is the phase where New York-based dancer Elizabeth Roxas is at. Turning 43 on Aug. 7, she says she's ready to give up dance and be a real-estate broker.

One of her best friends, a Filipina, offered her a partnership in a real-estate firm on Park Avenue. Roxas was attracted to the idea of exploring unknown territory. She studied for the job, took board exams and got her license.

"I wanted to prove that there's another side of us. We should cultivate that whatever it may be," says Roxas.

Well-meaning friends chide her since her new vocation has nothing to do with the arts. But Roxas says her experience as a performer, especially being in front of people, is going to be helpful.

"I've been a dancer all my life—all of 38 years. I started when I was 5. I want to experience something else."

When Roxas and her husband were looking for an apartment, they visited 77 places. "I like the idea of looking into people's homes and seeing how they live. I found it interesting," she says.

Making it competitively

It's hard to imagine Roxas all covered up in corporate attire and pondering about retiring from dance. Next week, she'll be playing Carmen in the evening shows of Ballet Philippines and a redux of Alvin Ailey's "Witness" in all the shows at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Roxas holds the distinction of making it in the competitive world of New York and being a principal of the world-class Alvin Ailey Company.

Roxas was the "baby" of Ballet Philippines for nearly 10 years until she went to New York. One day Ailey saw her in class and waxed enthusiastic over her sinuous movement quality. She stayed with the company for 13 years.

When she left Ailey in 1997, she performed the role of Eliza in "The King and I." She found the daily grind of theater unfulfilling. Everything was done with clockwork predictability. When the show closed, Roxas returned to the concert world. With three other colleagues from the Alvin Ailey Company, they formed a group called Rhytmik in which she was the artistic director. The group aimed to fill in a void in the dance world. They even held their first season at Jacob's Pillow.

"What's missing in America is a company that consists of dancers over

WHEN/p.C4

LOOKING like a goddess in Athena's Collar, made from citrine, agate, aventurine, smoky topaz (faceted and polished), faceted citrine, carnelian cubes, honey calcite. The brooch—consisting of smoky topaz, amber honey calcite, amethyst, fluorite, Swarovski—is used as a headpiece. The cuff is made from brown sandstone on copper wire and the ring is made of smoky topaz with sandstone.

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Jollibee Journal

"KAYA MONG MAGBIGAY-SAYA, KID!" COLORS THE WORLD!

Jollibee looks over as kids express their creativity using mixed media.

Jollibee's "Kaya Mo, Kid!" campaign is now on its fifth year! It offers yet another worthwhile activity, a mixed media art contest entitled, "Sabi ng Jollibee, Kaya Mong Magbigay-Saya, Kid!" This event commenced with a workshop on mixed media given by Jason Moss of Ilustrador ng Kabataan (INK). Twelve kids participated in the said workshop. This activity, held at the Museo Pambata, gave these kids an idea on how to use almost anything – from oil pastels, crayons, fabric cut-outs to buttons!

Jollibee Marketing Manager Pinky Laurena says that the use of mixed media gives kids more leeway in their creativity. "Kids are very imaginative. When they play or when they do artworks, they try to use different forms of materials as much as possible," Laurena also adds.

Jollibee is also doing efforts in schools to promote the contest. As a start, Jollibee Libertad-Burgos branch conducted a school visit at St. Mary's Academy. Aside from discussing the contest's mechanics and prizes, games and dance numbers by the Jollibee mascots were also held. Kids can have something to watch out for as Jollibee will also hold this awareness campaign in other schools.

The contest is open to all children from grades 3-7 nationwide. They can inquire from any Jollibee store on the contest mechanics.

"Sabi ng Jollibee, Kaya Mong Magbigay-Saya, Kid!" is supported by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) and Ilustrador ng Kabataan (INK), and is sponsored by PET Plans, Inc. and Faber-Castell.

"Kabataan, Kabalikat sa Pagsagip ng Kalikasan"
SACRED HEART ACADEMY

Nature lovers all! Students of Sacred Heart Academy pose before planting trees along La Mesa Dam.

JOLLIBEE GOES NATURE TRIPPING!

Last July had been quite an eventful month for Jollibee Lagro, Jollibee Robinson's Big R, and Jollibee SM City Fairview 1 & 2. In cooperation with ABS-CBN and SM Supermalls, Jollibee employees and thousands of volunteers completed an advocacy campaign to nurture nature!

First stop they conducted educational games and storytelling for the students of Star Elementary School, Bagong Silang, St. Anthony, and Mater Carmeli School. High Schoolers from Sacred Heart Academy and Mater Carmeli also attended symposia conducted by the team. Next they trekked the muddy trails of La Mesa Dam to plant trees in the lone forest watershed of Metro Manila. Some 750 students and CAT Cadets of Mater Carmeli, St. Anthony, and Sacred Heart Academy sowed at least 10 seedlings each! Then finally on July 28 at the SM City Fairview Entertainment Plaza, 10,000 pledges from nature-loving Jollibee customers were formally endorsed to the La Mesa Dam administration to save the environment!

Of course nature tripping doesn't end there—Jollibee will always be a *Bantay ng Kalikasan*!

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Jollibee Delivery

So here's the deal: you're hungry, you get the phone, you call Jollibee, you order food worth ₱ 200 or more, you help yourself with *langhap-sarap* goodness, then, just like that, you get a gift-prize of your choice, for sure!

Jollibee, Asia's trailblazer of excellent and innovative customer service, will carry out yet another irresistible way to build food delivery sales this year. Every ₱ 50 purchase on delivery entitles a customer to a point, which he or she can collect to win exciting prizes from selected Jollibee stores in Metro Manila. The bigger the points, the bigger the perks!

Deal starts August 10. Call?

For feedback, comments, or suggestions, please write to:

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ELIZABETH Roxas interprets the fluidity of Wynn Wynn Ong's jewelry. She wears strands of green flourite and brown keishi pearls, smoky topaz, Swarovski crystals, aventurine and tournazul keishi pearls. The cuffs are made of fluorite, rock crystal, black sandstone and Swarovski crystals. The rings are made of green stone and Mediterranean corals and aquamarine tube with smoky topaz and Swarovski on copper wire.

When maturity becomes the dancer

(From page C3)

40—mature and seasoned dancers. They still have something to offer," Roxas says.

Mature artist

Roxas explains that there's a difference in the way a mature artist performs. "It's about what you've learned in life and that you're able to finally manifest it through your dancing. I never understood that until Alvin himself said. 'Elizabeth, you won't understand exactly what I'm talking about until you get there.' When you're younger, the technical aspect is phenomenal because that's what you're training for; but the technical aspect comes with the human life. Dance is about being able to bring it out. What makes the difference between a dancer and an artist is when you're able to share with the audience an experience in life. It's only later when you've hit your peak and after the technical aspect that you learn about maturity and everything starts to come through.

"You may have some flexibility and are strong in the technical aspect, but when you're older, there's something else that evolves in the artist. It's something else that comes out from within—all the years of experiences come out. You're able to use that on stage. I think that people are able to see that. They say, 'Wow! there's something different about that dancer.'"

Roxas is talking about being soulful. "It's that kind of performance that takes you beyond the aesthetics. When you see someone give so much emotion that you can see it coming from a deeper place, something else happens. You're able to relate with it," she says.

Different approach

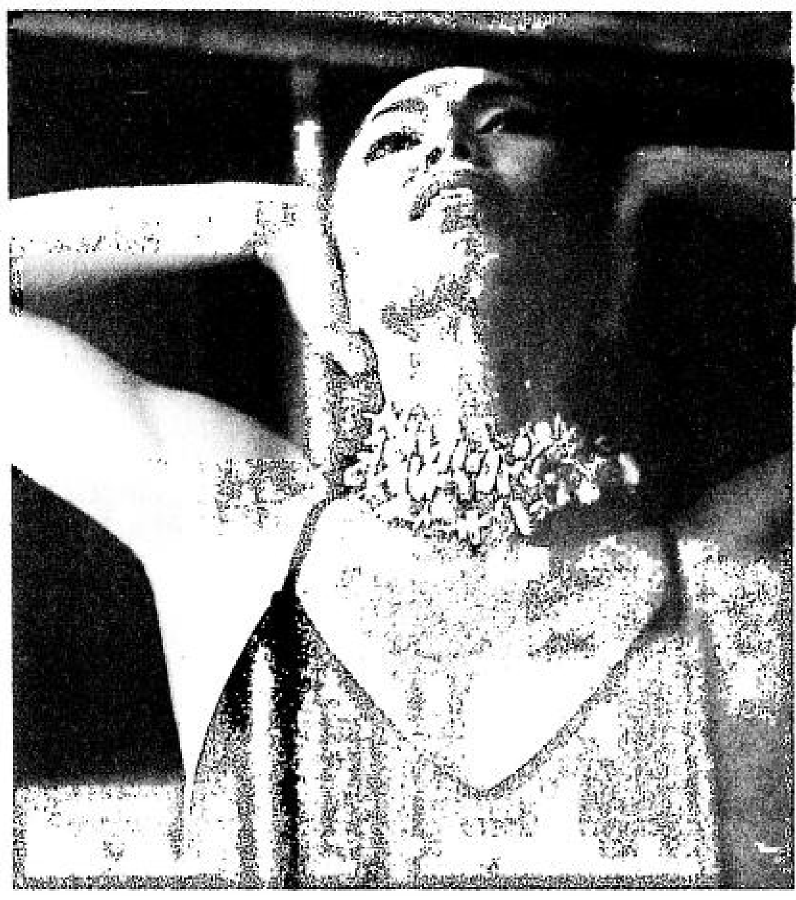
In 1988, Roxas performed "Witness," a riveting solo set to Jessie Norman's gospel music amid a sea of floating candles. Although nothing has been changed in the choreography, her line of attack will be different when she does it again. "When I was younger, I approached it from a technical aspect. I had to hit the turn and the *penchée*. Ailey wanted me to make sure these were shown. I'm approaching it again in a deeper sense. How can I relate these to the audience that these make sense to them? They are not just seeing the aesthetic look of the dancer, but rather what she is saying to them."

With her dusky, exotic features, Roxas suits the part of Carmen, the coarse but sensual antagonist in Alice Reyes' "Carmen." There are parallelisms between Carmen and Roxas. Both had three men significant men in their lives. Roxas is married for the third time to a lawyer, 18 years her senior.

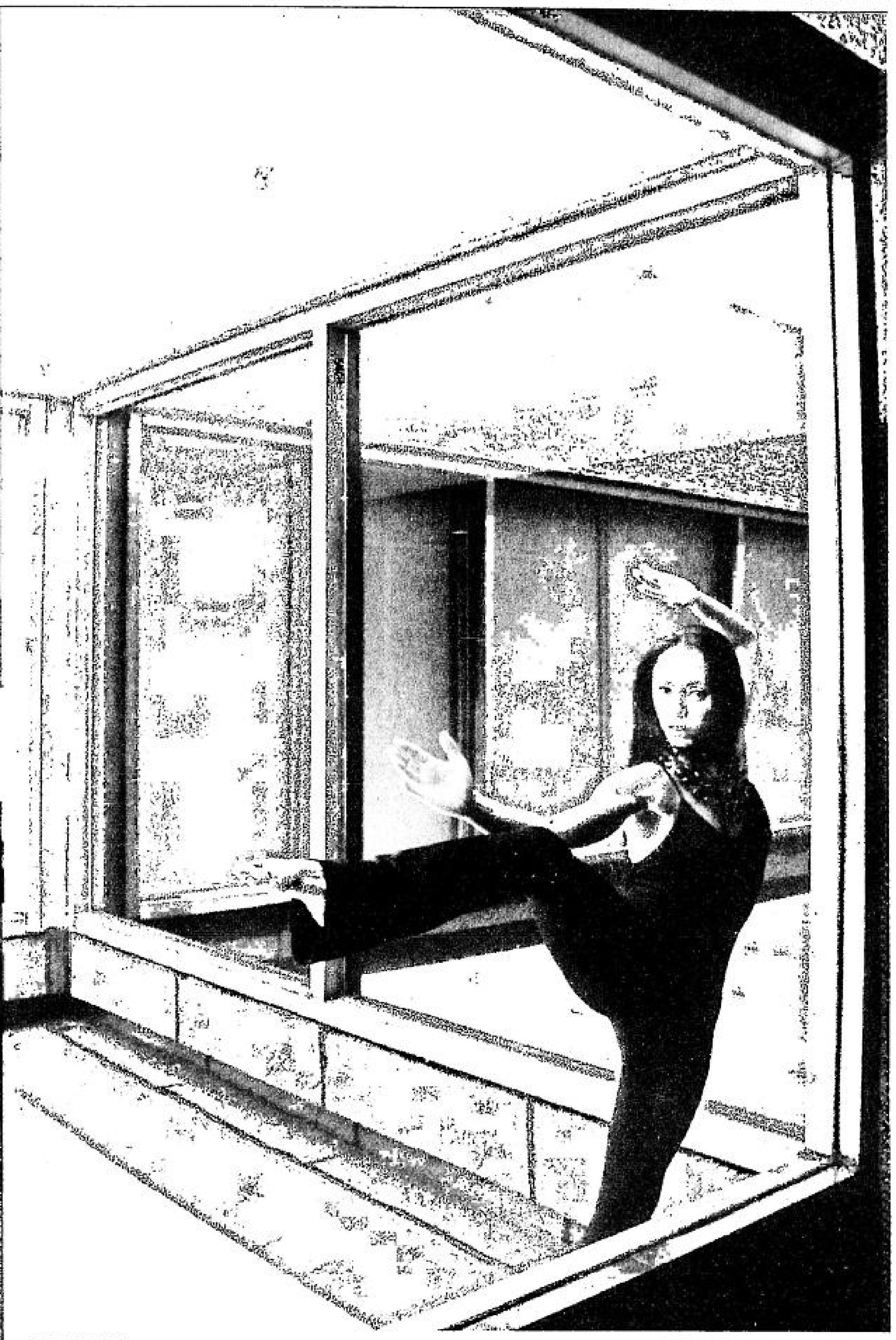
"Isn't it so apropos that I'm doing Carmen? I'm depicting theater in real life," she says.

How's her sex life? She claims it's wonderful—even without Prozac and Viagra.

Ballet Philippines presents "Carmen and Other Ballets" on Aug. 10-12 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines



GALADRIEL. Silver gray keishi pearls and Swarovski crystals



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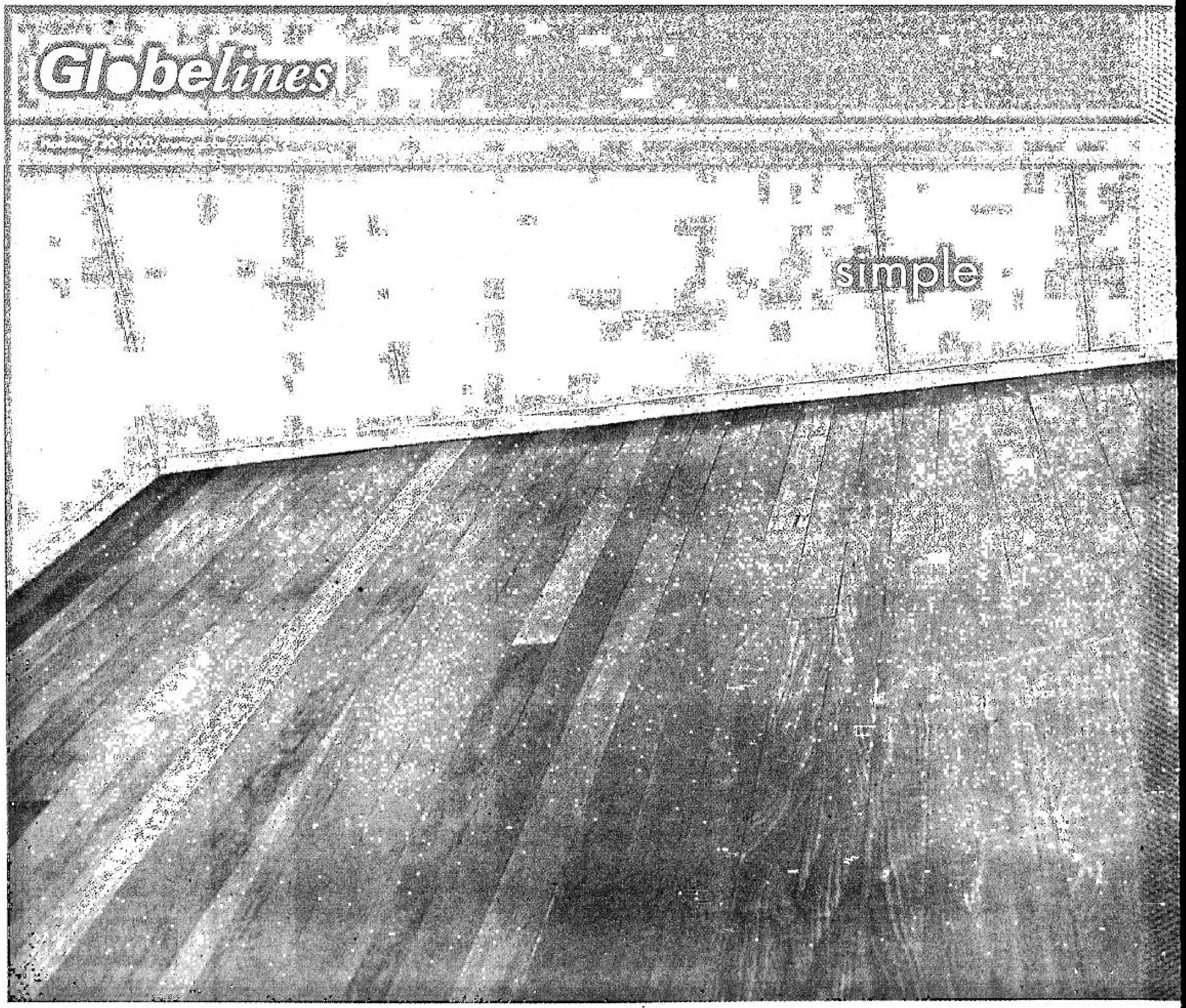

Italian fashion sale starts Aug. 3

PREPARE for a massive Italian fashion sale starting Aug. 3 as the Linea Italia Group declares a "Fashion Rebellion."

Discounts of up to 70 percent on genuine, made-in-Italy fashion will be offered. On sale are Italy's most prestigious and popular brands like Versace, Gianfranco Ferre, Trussardi, Max Mara, Mariella Burani, Dolce & Gabbana Basic, Pinko, Henry Cotton's, Redaelli, Gallia, Guiducci and Navahos, among others.

Participating in the sale are Linea Italia 6750, Versace Jeans Couture (Greenbelt), Linea Italia (SM Megamall, Ayala Cebu, Ayala Alabang), Prima Linea (Greenbelt, SM Megamall, Ayala Cebu), Capolinea (Greenbelt, SM Cebu), Linea Uomo (SM Megamall, Park Square I, Ayala Alabang, SM Cebu), Uomo Tu (Greenbelt, Ayala Cebu) and all Corso Marconi outlets (Marconi corner Morse Streets, Makati; Robinsons Galleria; Festival Supermall Alabang; SM Manila and Cebu).

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A Special Message for You My Best Friend

You are the most significant person in my life right now. You are my dearest friend, the one person I can be open and honest with, the person who knows me better than I know myself. When I am with you, I can be myself, with no pretense, and I am accepted and loved completely for who I am.
I love you for being the wonderful person that you are and for the beauty you bring into my life just by being there. I love you for the fun we have together and the openness that characterizes our relationship. I love you most of all for being a wonderful person and the best friend anyone could have.

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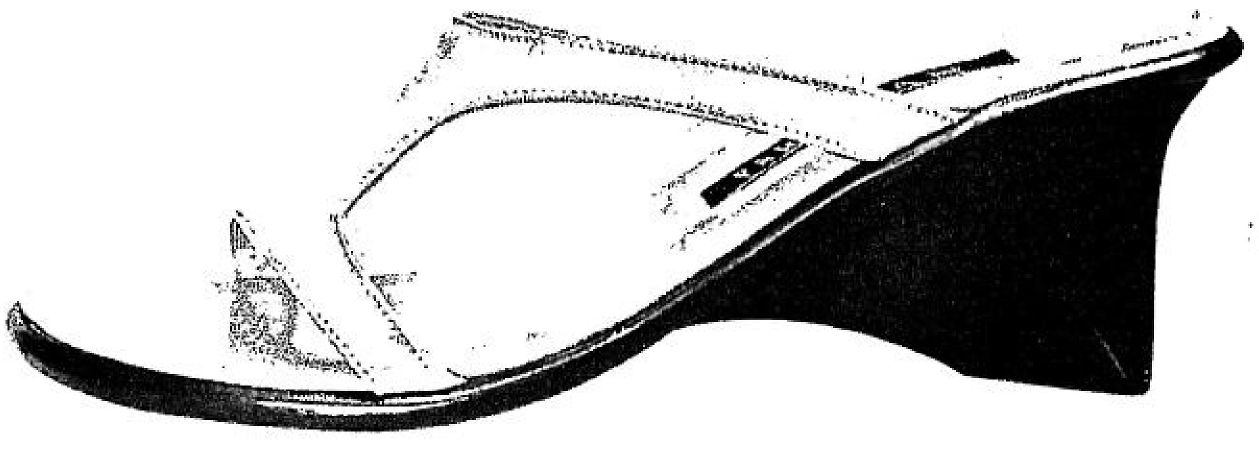
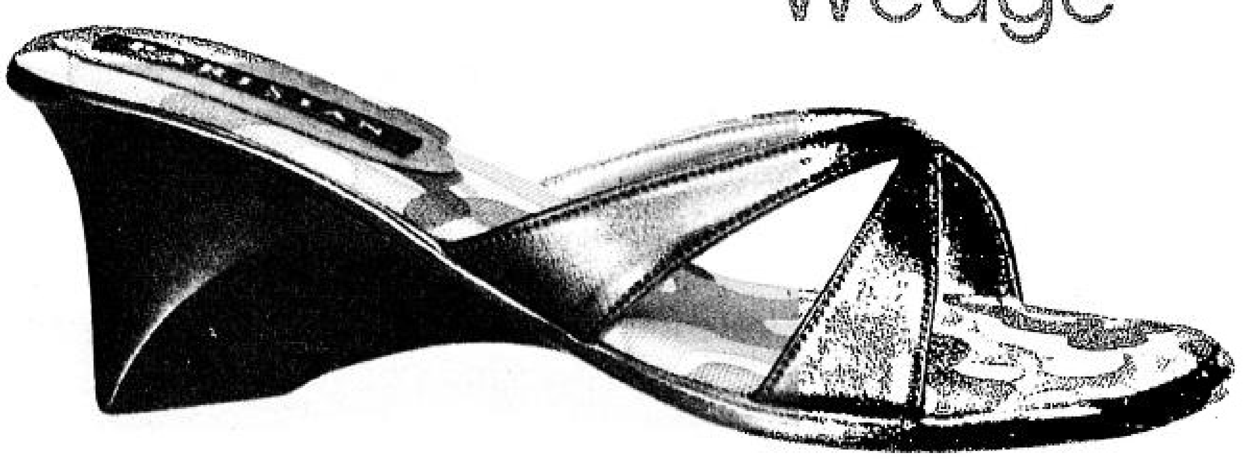


Wedge
Wedge
Wedge



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(to 5 enrolled Globe Handyphone numbers until December 31, 2001)
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(anytime, anywhere)
Last Call Memory
(automatically connects to the last caller)
3-Way Calling
(allows 3 parties to talk at the same time)
Call Waiting
(signals incoming caller while on the line)
Duplex Number
(assigns 2 numbers with distinct ringing tones)

Fiction-writing workshop at Ayala Museum

A WORKSHOP on fiction for beginners will be held at the Ayala Museum on Makati Avenue starting Aug. 4, continuing for four Saturday mornings, with Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo as facilitator.

Hidalgo is the present director of the UP Creative Writing Center and a much-awarded fictionist and essayist. Among her recent prizes is the Carlos Palanca grand prize for the novel for "Recuerdo" and the Manila Critics' Circle National Book Award for "Catch a Falling Star," "Coming Home" and "Tales for a Rainy Night." She teaches creative writing and literature at the University of the Philippines and directs the university's prestigious Creative Writing Program.

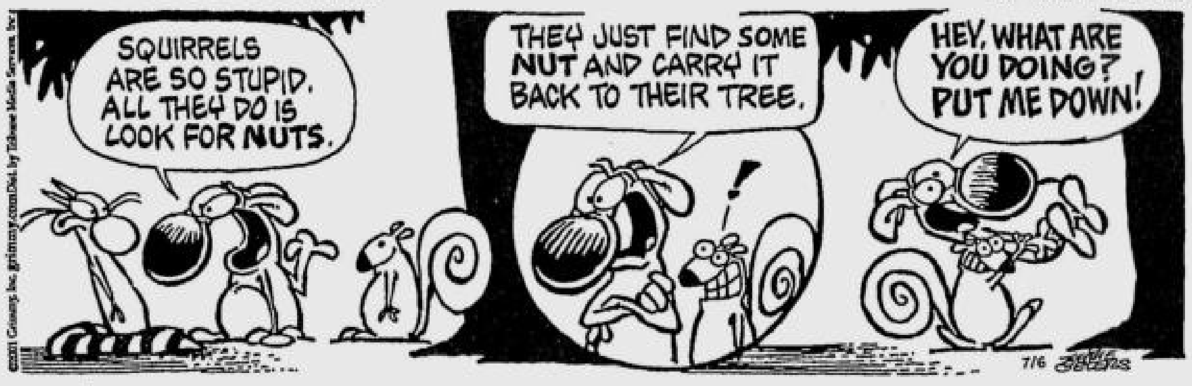
The Ayala workshop will help beginning writers with their short-story projects. The three-hour modules contain writing exercises that will help them develop specific skills needed in fiction writing.

The fiction workshop is part of an ongoing Escuela sa Museo continuing education program in creative writing held every year. Scheduled for September is a biography and family history workshop. Call Ethel Villafranca at 812-1191 to 97 local 130.

COMIC Relief

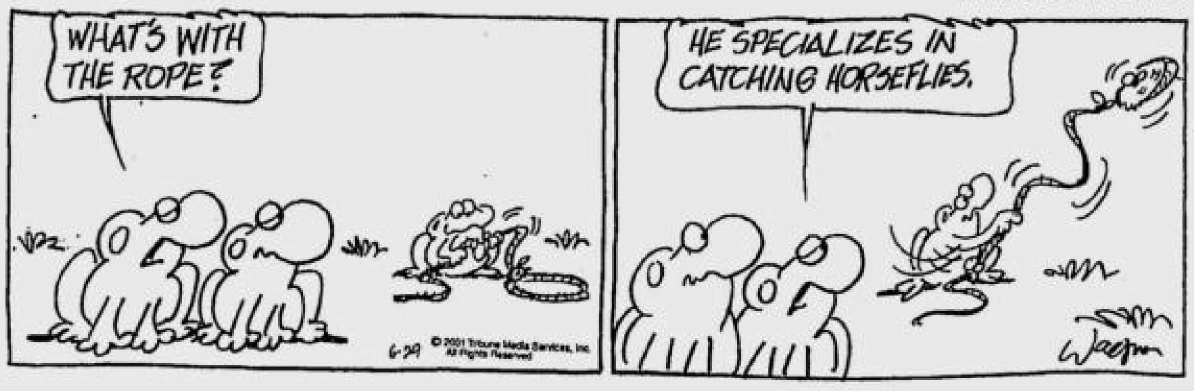
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SQUIRRELS ARE SO STUPID. ALL THEY DO IS LOOK FOR NUTS.
THEY JUST FIND SOME NUT AND CARRY IT BACK TO THEIR TREE.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PUT ME DOWN!
7/6

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHAT'S WITH THE ROPE?
HE SPECIALIZES IN CATCHING HORSEFLIES.
6-29
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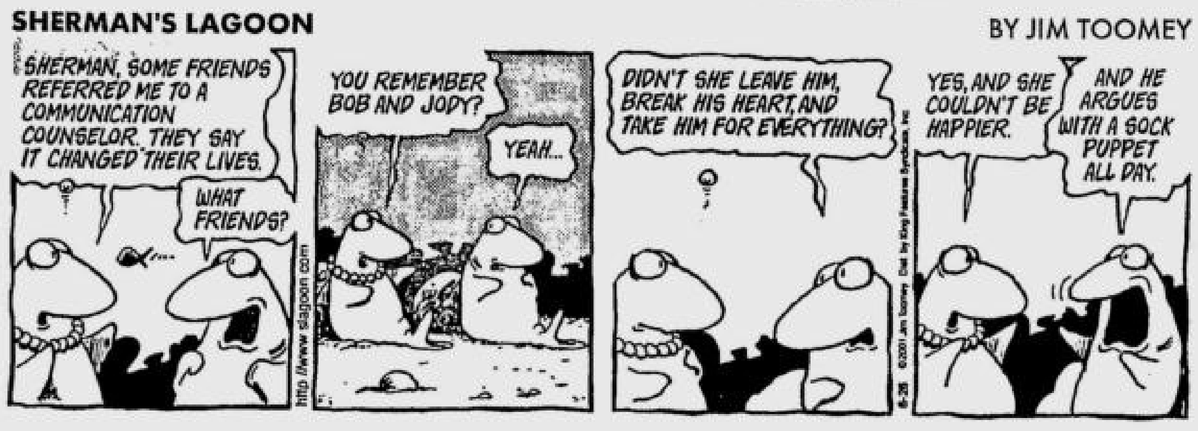
Wagner

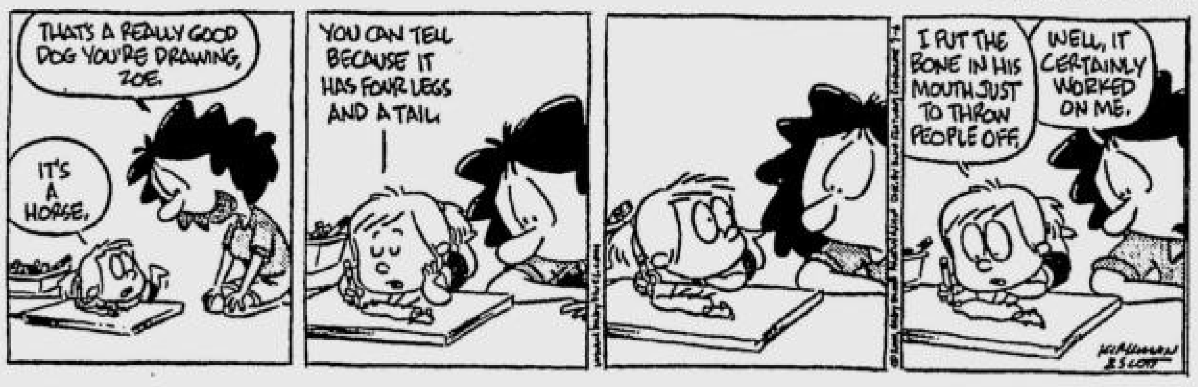
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, SOME FRIENDS REFERRED ME TO A COMMUNICATION COUNSELOR. THEY SAY IT CHANGED THEIR LIVES.
WHAT FRIENDS?
YOU REMEMBER BOB AND JODY?
YEAH...
DIDN'T SHE LEAVE HIM, BREAK HIS HEART, AND TAKE HIM FOR EVERYTHING?
YES, AND SHE COULDN'T BE HAPPIER.
AND HE ARGUES WITH A SOCK PUPPET ALL DAY.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THAT'S A REALLY GOOD DOG YOU'RE DRAWING, ZOE.
IT'S A HORSE.
YOU CAN TELL BECAUSE IT HAS FOUR LEGS AND A TAIL.
I PUT THE BONE IN HIS MOUTH JUST TO THROW PEOPLE OFF.
WELL, IT CERTAINLY WORKED ON ME.
KIRKMAN SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tony Bennett, Leon Uris, P.D. James, Martin Sheen, Anne Klein, Martha Stewert

Happy Birthday: You'll be on top of the world if you take care of all your responsibilities instead of ignoring them. Clearing the backlog out of the way will make you feel revived and ready to start all over. It's time to clear your slate and rid yourself of the people and things that are dragging you down. This is your year to forge ahead. Your numbers: 8, 15, 19, 23, 27, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotional difficulties are likely. Problems with females that you live or work with will try your patience and cause temper tantrums. You must control your reactions to incompetence.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Push to get everything completed. You may need to use charm and strategy to persuade others to pitch in and help. Delays will set in if you don't work quickly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Dealing with other people's money or possessions will be conducive to greater cash flow. Help older family members with legal or financial matters that are disturbing them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Socializing will bring contact with romantic possibilities. It's a good idea not to get too friendly until you resolve the relationship that still has a hold on you. Be fair and honest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Problems in your personal life will be magnified if you aren't up-front about the way you feel. Confusion concerning a colleague may cause difficulties with your superiors.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out and participate in enjoyable activities. All work and no play isn't good for your emotional well-being. Take the time to get to know new acquaintances better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Alterations in your living arrangements are inevitable. Close friends may shed some light on the situation. Work diligently on sticking to your budget.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Accidents will cause major delays. Proceed with caution if you are operating equipment or machinery. Don't be dragged into debates. You'll be in a no-win situation and will probably lose a friend in the process.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Turn good ideas into moneymaking adventures. You're always ready to make a safe bet. Although your plans look prosperous, the partners you pick may be your downfall.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be uncertain of your feelings. Put your energy into professional goals and let the personal side sit for the time being. If your partner is pressuring you, let him or her go.

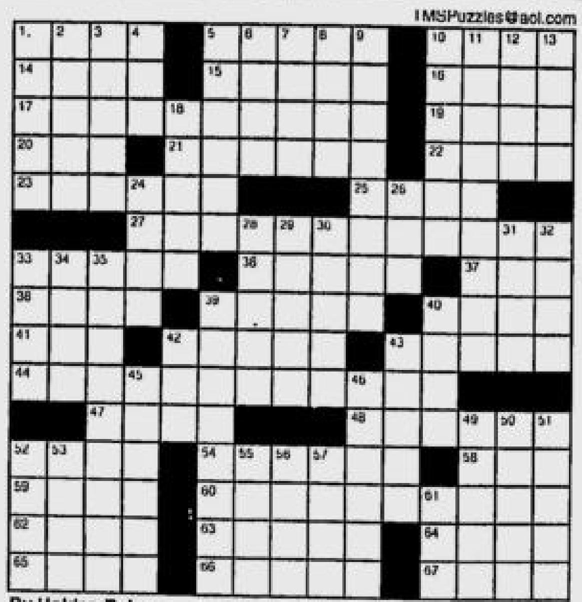
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make positive improvements to your home with family help. Let everyone feel that they've contributed. Don't get dragged into office politics at work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Attend social functions. Your expressiveness and sensuality will be enticing and could lead to romantic opportunities. Don't let problems with children stand in the way of your happiness.

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive and always where the action is. You have great belief in yourself and those you love. You are engaging, caring and determined to make your mark in the world.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA

6/18/01

ACROSS
1 "Mephisto Waltz" star
5 Ulan __, Mongolia
10 Hunk of dirt
14 Clarified fat
15 Tropical lizard
16 Oxen connector
17 Rodgers and Hart musical
19 Given life
20 Luau instrument, briefly
21 Recovery-room period
22 Satisfactory
23 Never __ my door again!
25 Rowboat needs
27 Cole Porter musical
33 Youngster
36 Musical composition
37 Kilmer of "The Doors"
38 Sharpen
39 Birth sacks
40 Lima's land
41 NYC subway line
42 Dishes
43 Oberon or Haggard
44 Daily tribulations
47 Jai follower
48 Weather-map line
52 Category
54 Twangy sounds
58 Prospector's find
59 Cyrano's feature
60 Ground beef sandwiches
62 Singer Redding
63 Courtyards
64 __ of Cleves
65 Power unit
66 Teutonic Odin
67 Potatoes' partner?

DOWN
1 For all to hear
2 Sri __
3 Salon appliance
4 "Much __ About Nothing"
5 Nobleman's domain
6 Colonial insects
7 Horn honk
8 Butter's bro
9 Answers back
10 Bionic Woman, e.g.
11 Peruses
12 Gumbo need
13 Repudiate
18 Overturn
24 Cabbage kin
26 In the past
28 Work out
29 Baskerville's dog
30 Marital relation
31 Member of the English nobility
32 Turn on a pivot
33 Stylish
34 Israeli dance
35 En route
39 Logger's tool
40 Cash in Chile
42 R.E. Lee's nation
43 Disorderly
45 Senior
46 Bottom of a crankcase
49 Kentucky pioneer
50 Sports showplace
51 Timer button
52 Be sure of
53 Tiny bit
55 Choir part
56 Categorize
57 Samoan port
61 Tie-up

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

M	O	D	E	S	T	■	B	R	I	S	B	A	N	E
A	V	I	A	T	E	■	R	O	T	A	R	I	E	S
N	E	S	T	O	R	■	A	M	O	R	I	S	T	S
P	R	E	■	G	R	A	S	P	■	D	E	L	T	A
O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	■	W	I	F	E	L	Y
W	I	S	H	E	R	S	■	G	E	N	E	S	E	S
E	P	E	E	■	■	W	H	A	L	E	R	■	■	■
R	E	D	■	T	H	E	I	S	T	S	■	F	C	C
■	■	■	R	E	A	R	M	S	■	■	T	I	E	R
S	C	R	O	L	L	S	■	I	N	F	E	R	N	O
A	R	E	O	L	E	■	F	E	A	R	L	E	S	S
F	E	A	S	T	■	L	A	R	V	A	■	S	U	I
E	C	S	T	A	T	I	C	■	A	S	P	I	R	E
S	H	O	E	L	A	C	E	■	H	E	A	D	E	R
T	E	N	D	E	R	E	D	■	O	R	D	E	R	S

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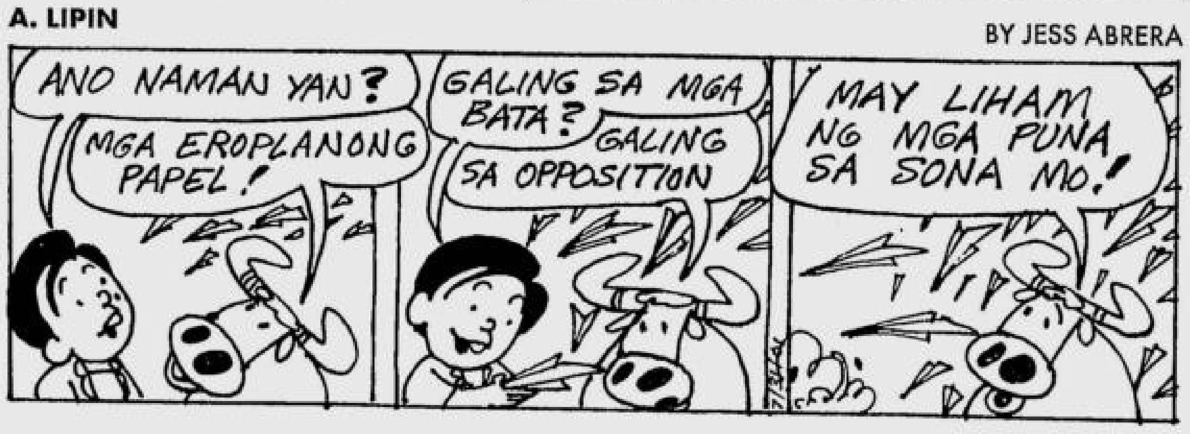
6/18/01

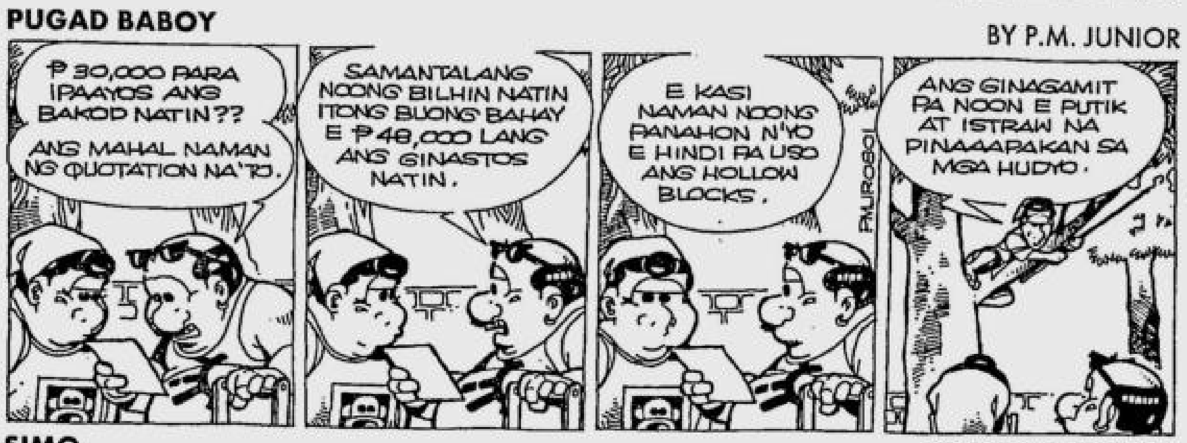
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANO NAMAN YAN?
MGA EROPLANONG PAPEL!
GALING SA MGA BATA?
GALING SA OPPOSITION
MAY LIHAM NG MGA PUNA SA SONA MO!

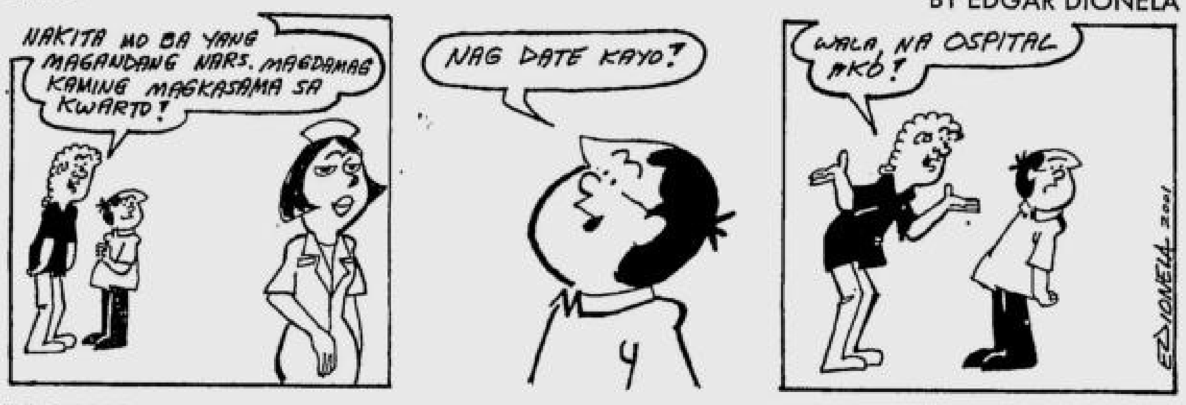
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


₱30,000 PARA IPAAYOS ANG BAKOD NATIN??
ANG MAHAL NAMAN NG QUOTATION NA'TO.
SAMANTALANG NOONG BILHIN NATIN ITONG BUONG BAHAY E ₱48,000 LANG ANG GINASTOS NATIN.
E KASI NAMAN NOONG PANAHON N'YO E HINDI PA USO ANG HOLLOW BLOCKS.
ANG GINAGAMIT PA NOON E PUTIK AT ISTRAW NA PINAAAPAKAN SA MGA HUDYO.
PMJR0801

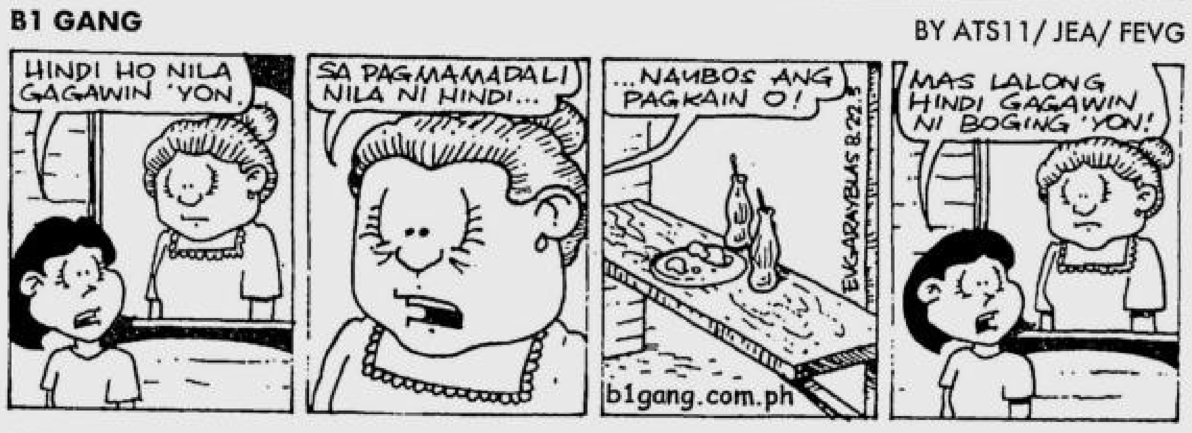
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAKITA MO BA YANG MAGANDANG NARS. MAGDAMAG KAMING MAGKASAMA SA KWARTO!
NAG DATE KAYO?
WALA, NA OSPITAL AKO!
EDIONELA 2001

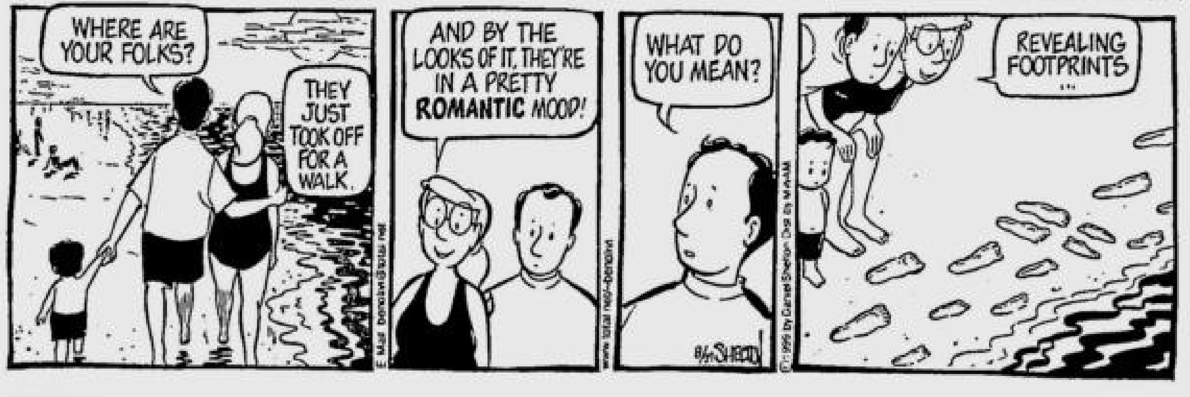
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


HINDI HO NILA GAGAWIN 'YON.
SA PAGMAMADALI NILA NI HINDI...
...NAUBOS ANG PAGKAIN O!
MAS LALONG HINDI GAGAWIN NI BOGING 'YON!
b1gang.com.ph

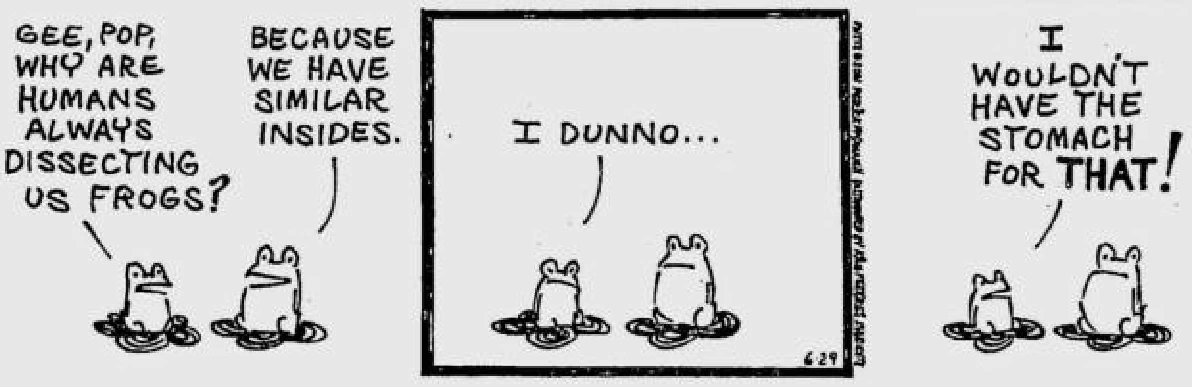
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHERE ARE YOUR FOLKS?
THEY JUST TOOK OFF FOR A WALK.
AND BY THE LOOKS OF IT, THEY'RE IN A PRETTY ROMANTIC MOOD!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
REVEALING FOOTPRINTS...

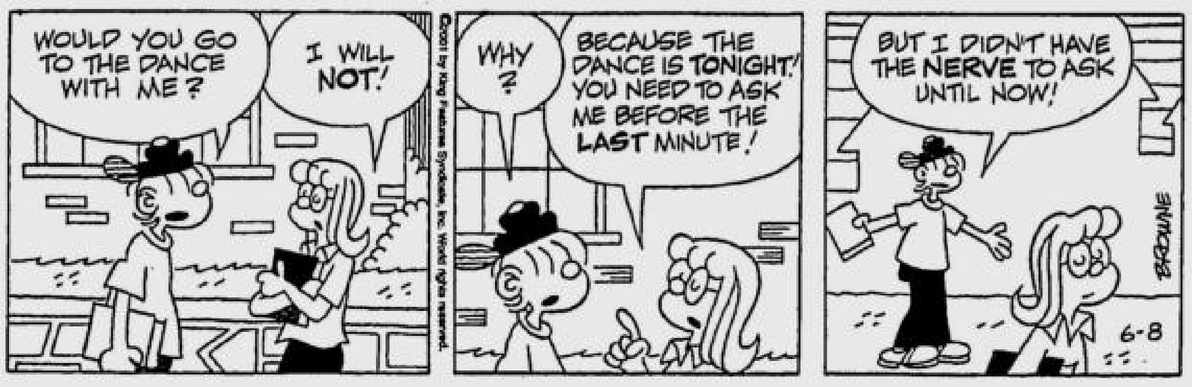
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GEE, POP, WHY ARE HUMANS ALWAYS DISSECTING US FROGS?
BECAUSE WE HAVE SIMILAR INSIDES.
I DUNNO...
I WOULDN'T HAVE THE STOMACH FOR THAT!
6-29

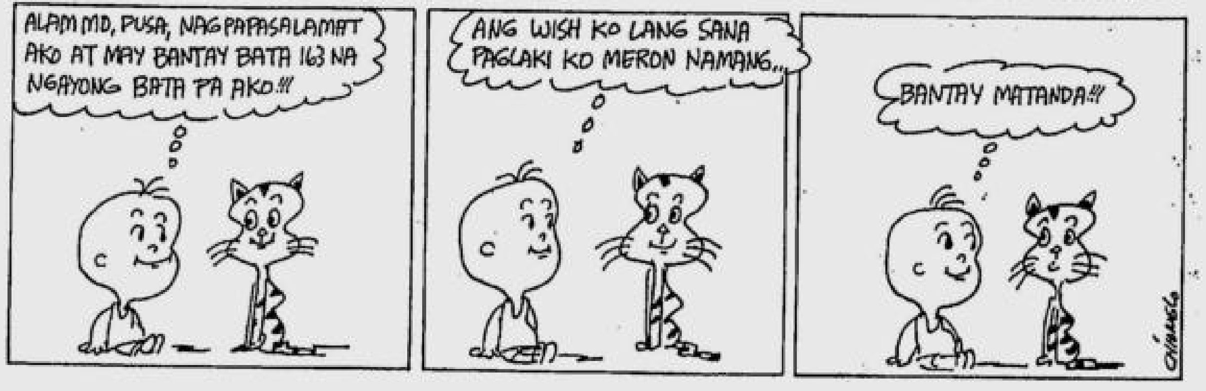
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WOULD YOU GO TO THE DANCE WITH ME?
I WILL NOT!
WHY?
BECAUSE THE DANCE IS TONIGHT! YOU NEED TO ASK ME BEFORE THE LAST MINUTE!
BUT I DIDN'T HAVE THE NERVE TO ASK UNTIL NOW!
BROWNE
6-8

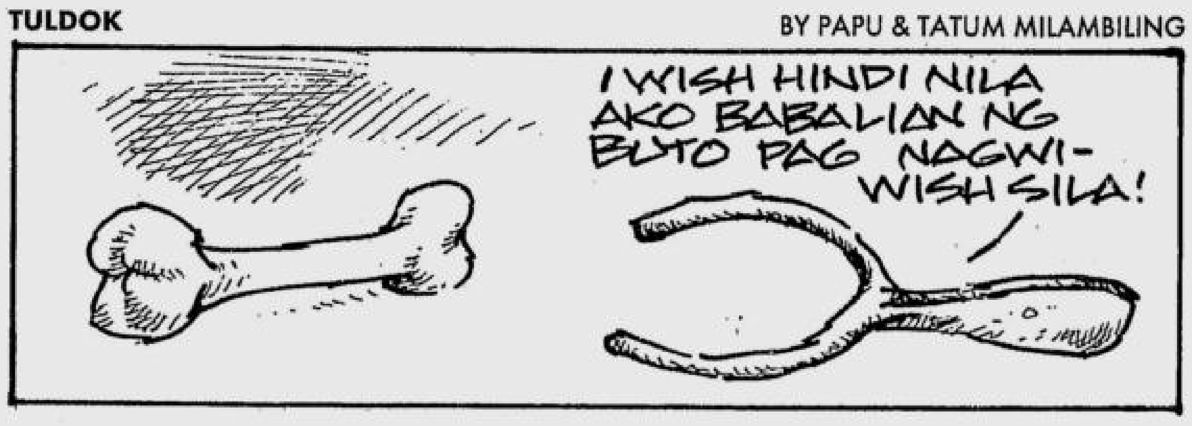
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO, PUSA, NAGPAPASALAMAT AKO AT MAY BANTAY BATA 163 NA NGAYONG BATA PA AKO!!!
ANG WISH KO LANG SANA PAGLAKI KO MERON NAMANG...
BANTAY MATANDA!!!

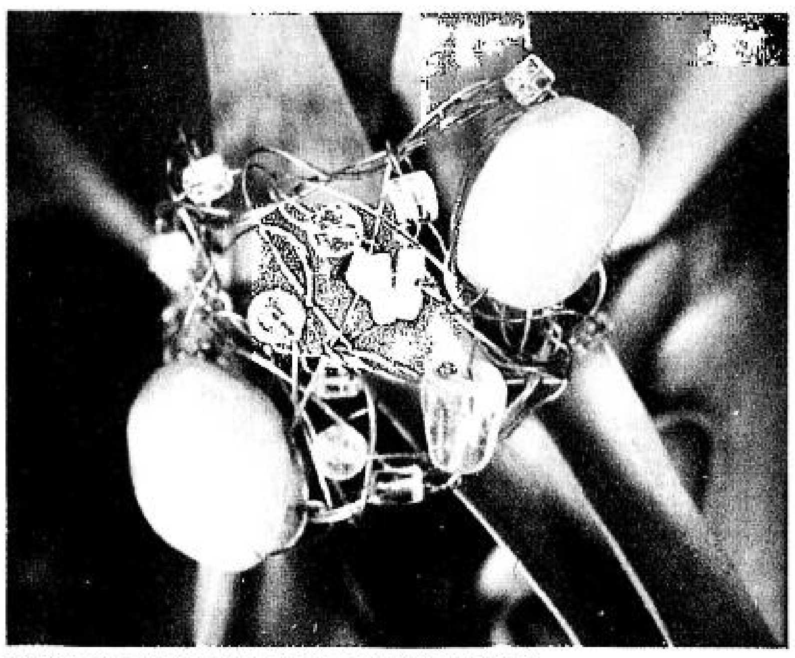
TULDOK

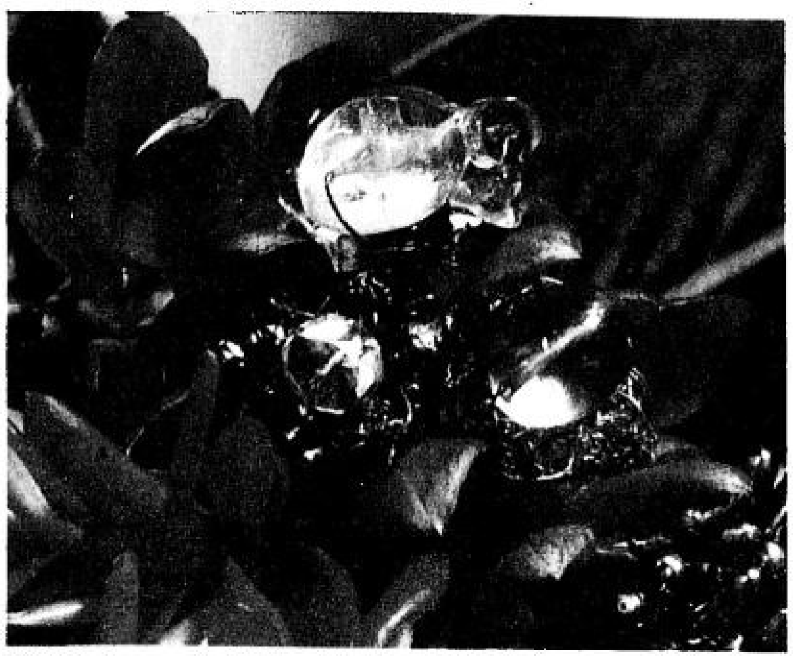
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


I WISH HINDI NILA AKO BABALIAN NG BUTO PAG NAGWI-WISH SILA!

Jewelry that reveals the creative mind

Hobbyist Wynn Wynn Ong shows her individuality and creativity by recasting the stones she has collected in a lifetime into striking jewelry


CUFF with clear crystal quartz and pink amethyst


PEARL rings made of citrine, black keishi and rose gold wire

WHY do people fail to find satisfaction in their lives?

Maybe it's because they are plagiarists. They take up prepackaged images that are bombarded to them by the media. These icons present the 'false impression that there's a wealth of options for us. In the end, the mind becomes addicted to ready-made patterns with which society presents it, and relinquishes the chance to evolve. This is sad because it contradicts the mind's ability to initiate its own development.

Every thought is an act of creation. If it is listened to, it will have an impact on one's life.

However, many people live as if the future were cast in stone, or the result of events beyond their control. These beliefs disregard the visionary within us all. It is that part of the psyche that creates its destiny.

This is how creative people work or how people can change their lives. The greatest creative workshop is our mind. We all have the capability to be original in our way of thinking. This aptitude can be achieved on a daily basis. Part of the secret of creativity is being relaxed and positive that allows creativity to shine. This is how Wynn Wynn Ong got into jewelry-making after nearly two decades of structured life as a corporate lady and mother.

Beyond mundane

"There comes a point in your life when you have to go beyond the mundane," hobbyist turned budding entrepreneur Wynn Wynn, starts the interview about a turning point in life.

Born in Burma, raised in Vienna and educated at Assumption in San Lorenzo, Makati, Wynn Wynn studied business management and finance, and was vice president of the International School's board of trustees.

After years of teaching, boardroom meetings and work committees, Wynn Wynn decided to go back to her roots–expressing her individuality.

"Midlife is a renewal of life. It's a search of life. It comes after a phase of structure. It's going back to what you suppressed," she says.

She recalls how she defied conventions to assert her personality. "My mind has always been free-spirited. I showed it even in the way I dressed," she says. When she dated her future husband, Norberto Ong, he was aghast when she wore faded and frayed jeans and a crochet shirt and walked barefoot.

In her school days in Assumption, she shocked the nuns by wearing boar's tooth from Baguio. Since lip gloss was a no-no, she sucked cherry menthol candy to get an eye-catching, bright red mouth.

In the 20-30 age group women tend to kowtow to what society or media imposes on them. In exchange for orthodoxy is postponement or suppression of a dream.

Organic

"When you get married, you slip into conformity," she says. For 15 years she donned power suits and pumps, painted her nails in pastels and invested on diamond jewelry. "After the corporate world and being such a workaholic, you look for substance within yourself."

In all her trips, she had been collecting stones. One day she laid them all out and started assembling them.

Last Christmas she gave a few pieces to her friends and husband's relatives. The recipients of her jewelry got compliments from their pals and kin. Style consultant Michael Salientes saw her pieces and encouraged her to go full-time. Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo snapped up her jewelry and sold them at Firma. Orders have been coming.

She describes her early pieces as organic, such as the twisted vine necklace with semiprecious stones, square Swarovski crystals, smoky topaz and citrin and floral brooches. Another necklace displays a unique combination of Keisei pearls, yellow topaz, pink amethyst and clear quartz. She also combines pearls of various textures with black onyx and quartz or Indonesian smoked glass beads with aventurine, agate, citrine, pearls, smoky topaz and Swarovski. A bracelet shaped like gold-plated waves is studded with green Swarovski stones and square peridots.

Fashionistas

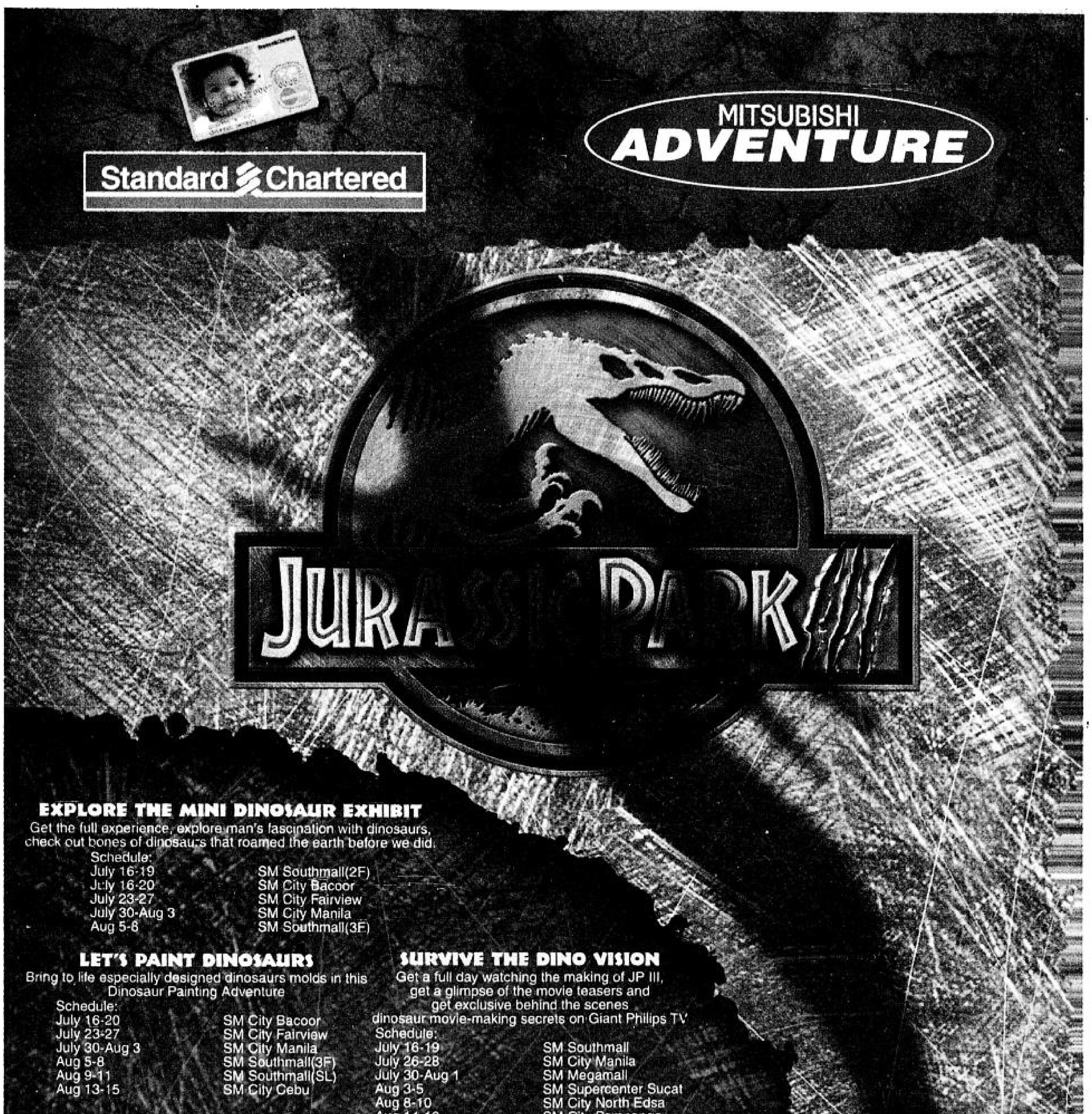
To her, jewelry-making is a calming experience. While she assembles the work, she listens to Vivaldi or Rachmaninoff. Her mind is relaxed yet alert to tones, textures and movements. In a comfortable state, she establishes a rapport that inspires her imagination. The pieces are fluid, translucent stones set beside opaque ones. The pieces are made from semiprecious stones and unusual Swarovski crystals and are strung by silver, copper and gold-plated wires.

"I don't set a system. I surround myself with them and then I start to pick them up. I don't work with stones that I don't have a feel for. Some speak to me. Everything depends on the color or the mood. The colors are the life for me. I weave until I'm satisfied with the shape," says Wynn Wynn.

Wynn Wynn favors chunky jewelry. The necklaces are best worn in threes or fours for dramatic effect. They are worn by such fashionistas Margarita Fores, Samantha Eduque, Melissa LaO, Since everything is done by hand, don't expect a repetition of the style.

"This is the age of individuality. I think people are tired of a cloned look. They are asserting themselves," she says. *Marge C. Enriquez*

Available at Firma, 616 J. Napkil St., Malate, Manila; tel. 525-5001



EXPLORE THE MINI DINOSAUR EXHIBIT
Get the full experience, explore man's fascination with dinosaurs, check out bones of dinosaurs that roamed the earth before we did.
Schedule:

July 16-19	SM Southmall(2F)
July 16-20	SM City Bacoor
July 23-27	SM City Fairview
July 30-Aug 3	SM City Manila
Aug 5-8	SM Southmall(3F)

LET'S PAINT DINOSAURS
Bring to life especially designed dinosaurs molds in this Dinosaur Painting Adventure
Schedule:

July 16-20	SM City Bacoor
July 23-27	SM City Fairview
July 30-Aug 3	SM City Manila
Aug 5-8	SM Southmall(3F)
Aug 9-11	SM Southmall(SL)
Aug 13-15	SM City Cebu

SURVIVE THE DINO VISION
Get a full day watching the making of JP III, get a glimpse of the movie teasers and get exclusive behind the scenes dinosaur movie-making secrets on Giant Philips TV
Schedule:

July 16-19	SM Southmall
July 26-28	SM City Manila
July 30-Aug 1	SM Megamall
Aug 3-5	SM Supercenter Sucat
Aug 8-10	SM City North Edsa
Aug 14-16	SM City Pampanga

COLOR THE CREATURES
Faber-Castell brings you a world of extraordinary coloring game and hot freebies.
Schedule:

July 16-19	SM Southmall(2F)
July 20-22	SM Southmall(SL)
July 26-28	SM City Manila
July 30-Aug1	SM Megamall
Aug 3-5	SM Supercenter Sucat
Aug 8-10	SM City North Edsa

COME TO STORYLAND
Visit Storyland SM Southmall & Storyland SM City Fairview and see how you can GET FREE MOVIE TICKETS!

PARTY 'TIL EXTINCTION
Take a journey to the Megastrip @ SM Megamall on July 21, 2001 at 7: 30 PM and party with bands, rock climbing, henna tattooing, freebies & a lot more!

PLAY THE JP III ADVENTURE GAME
Get high on playing the cool JP III video game brought to you by COMPASS INTERNET
Schedule:

July 16-19	SM Southmall(2F)
July 16-20	SM City Bacoor
July 23-27	SM City Fairview
July 26-28	SM City Manila
July 30-Aug 1	SM City Manila SM Megamall
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Aug 5-8	SM Southmall
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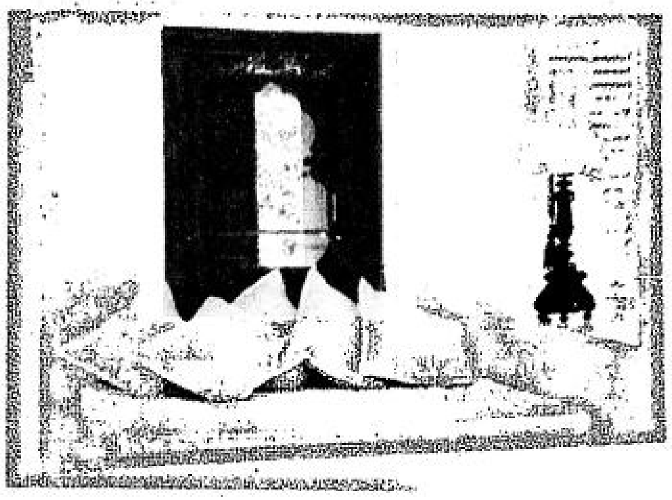
The Asian home in a contemporary key



CARVED niche inspired by Indian homes

By Cathy Saldana-Nolido

IT is easy to fall in love with a house that is well-built to withstand the alternately humid, hot and rainy conditions of the tropics. It is effortless for anyone to appreciate the design nuances that this emerging style, in its modern form, presents. Indeed, you are truly welcome to enter a tropical Asian home.

Walking into its doors, there is an instant familiarity that greets you, evoking a certain feeling "that I've been in a house like this before." And, you probably have. For the tropical Asian home has, in some decades, gone through an evolution of sorts—embracing, imbibing, reinterpreting and combining various building elements from the Balinese palace, the Javanese style, the Thai Baan standards, the traditional Malay home and, yes, our very own *bahay kubo* and *bahay na bato*. Finding a contemporary niche in the current design stream, the characteristics and defining points have remained the same, rendered with some exciting twists and individual touches by architects and designers of recognized good taste.

From the gate to the main door, there may be a lotus pond, a nonpretentious water feature, a dry pool perhaps. The accompanying layer of plants that fan the doorway need not be expensive, as ordinary palms and ferns of the tropics grow abundantly and can easily be maintained. Central to any Asian domicile is a significant entry point. It can be a stylized door, an elegant slab of polished wood, an antique doorframe. It is a distinctly Asian viewpoint to create an imposing setting at the entrance. From this radial node, the dining and living areas, devoid of walls and partitions, are focused.

There is never any restricting space as the house of the tropics is always a breathing structure, open and with a predictably high ceiling. In Tagalog, the apt description is *maaliwalas*, as the entire home becomes a true "factory of comfort." There are no compartmentalized rooms, as the foyer breezes through the living and dining areas, with subtle references to a stairwell or a corridor leading to the private quarters. Through the correct placement of windows in a properly located home (think: wind flow and solar orientation), the wind is brought into the house, to be circulated by ceiling fans, air tunnels, open shafts and cooled by water and garden features. The place becomes a perfect setting for a large family gathering, an afternoon siesta or a convivial round of drinks until early morning. Passively cooled through its low-framed windows and premeditated openings, the logical principles known even to our grandfathers are kept to heart. Warm air rises and must have an exit point, while cool air settles and must be recirculated throughout the house. It is for this reason that, more so in a tropical home, the air-conditioning units, to be at their optimum level, should be placed above human height.

Site orientation

There are many other technical and aesthetic elements that combine to complete a house like this one. Apart from window placement, site orientation is also a key element. There is a logical and architectural consideration that puts the sun's path in perspective. A well-computed ratio of windows and walls, ventilated openings, wide eaves and insulated roofs integrate the design style into the whole structure. The choices of materials abound—the wealth of textures and colors are varied since Asian culture is full of colors, patterns and contrasts. Sadly, our own *narra*, *kamagong* and *molave* supplies are dwindling fast (which brings house with such wood on a higher value scale), but with the right painter's touch, even *almaciga*, *tanguile* and *yakal* can produce warm and vibrant tones. The modern infusion brings the use of glass into the frontlines. Such treatment brings the outdoors into indoor view, creating a garden space that is enjoyed even in the dining, bath and sleeping areas.

Metal ornamentation or grillwork is employed though without the winding frills. Sturdy wooden pieces can take the place of metal, provided these are not too rustic in architectural style. That becomes another design concept altogether. The colors may all at once be bright and dominant, or even sparse and monochromatic. The desired mood brings this personal touch to practice. Wall texture alternates from a variegated smoothness to a blend of the familiar stucco, trowel plaster or semi-rough finish. These allow for a softer look. On the other hand, the dictates of a modern design idiom may also call for a completely smooth, polished white wall that perfectly scales a vertical axis.

The roofing material makes a pivotal design statement. Straddling the lines between Mediterranean and tropical Asian, the clay tile is still the favored choice, though wood shingles and a flat roof tile variety have given many a tropical home that distinctive crowning glory. Spires and angu-

THE ASIAN/ p.D3

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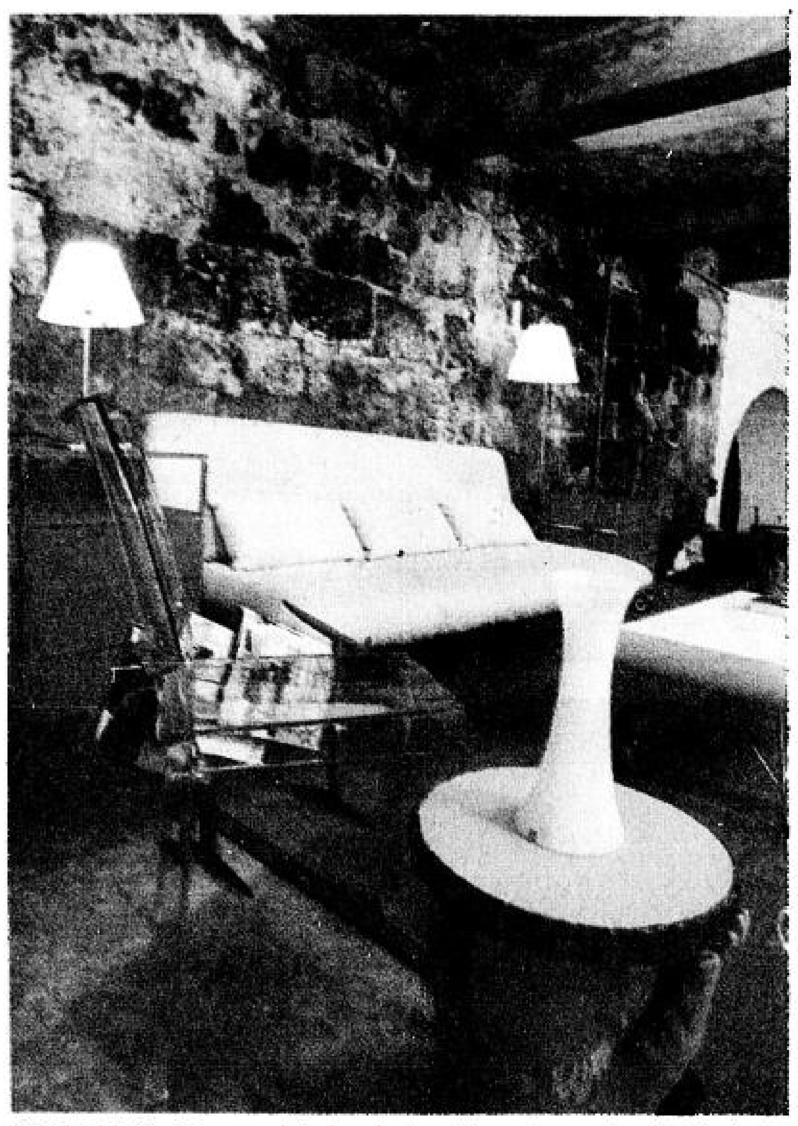
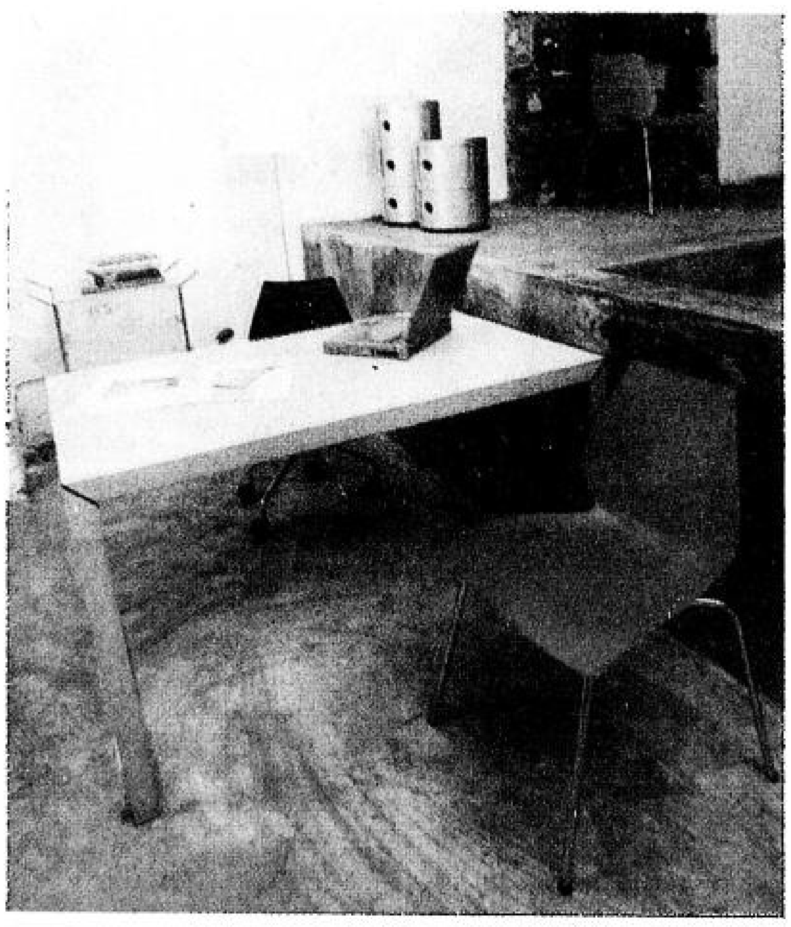
Kartell's plastic furniture fuses function and art



KARTELL fits into any interior design. Here, two red painted chests of drawers (Mobil) flank a conventional white sofa. Le Marie transparent chair serves as accent piece. In foreground, Atila stool/table from Philippe Starck's Gnome series.

Cleaning and maintenance of Kartell products

- USE a safe damp cloth with soap or a liquid cleaner, preferably diluted with water.
- Do not mix acetone, trichloroethylene, ammonia or other corrosive plastic cleaners. Avoid ethyl alcohol, which makes the surface dull, abrasive solvents, cleaning powders, steel wool or rough sponge cloths.
- Do not drag objects across the plastic surface, even if it has a scratch-resistant finish, since sharp objects can damage the plastic just as they would damage wood or metal.
- Do not place very hot plates or pots directly on the surface; always use a cloth or trivet.
- For the wooden parts of the furniture, clean with a soft damp cloth. Do not use alcohol or spot removers, or acetone, ammonia or trichloroethylene. Avoid placing the furniture in direct sunlight.
- For the metal parts, remove soil on a steel or aluminum surface with lukewarm water. Never use cleaning powder, abrasive or steel wool pads. Avoid spilling fruit juice, coffee or cola drinks on metal surfaces as they can cause indelible stains. To remove black marks, use products especially made for steel finishes or non-abrasive automobile polisher.



MAUI chair in bright red livens up this office corner. Behind are round mini cabinets called Componibili.

DR. No chair and Dr. Na round table are comfortable, small, stackable and a perfect pair. Armchairs have anodized or painted extruded aluminum legs. Together, chair and table are ideal for both indoors and out.

BY DORIS G. NUYDA
PHOTOS BY BOBOT MERU

THE PEOPLE behind Area Home Store have double reason to celebrate these days. They are not only opening their fourth and latest flagship outlet at the Power Plant in Rockwell Center by mid-August, they are also carrying quality products from the prestigious Kartell company of Milan in a special display space in the store.

Kartell designs and manufactures plastic furniture for home, office and public places like restaurants. They are basically made from high-grade plastics (thermoplastics including polypropylene, polycarbonate, PVC, polymethylmetacrylate and other resins). They are combined in the latest plastics technology to produce furniture of lightweight durability and sophistication. What's more, the plastic is recyclable.

To be chosen by Kartell as its branch in the Philippines is, in itself, reason for Area to cheer. Branches, or Kartell Points as they are formally called, are first studied for their distribution capabilities and their potential in communicating the company image and the efficiency of its product design and technology to the public. Those in the furniture design industry recognize Kartell as a trailblazer. It may even be said that it has elevated plastic furniture to the realm of functional art.

Kartell products are rarely, if ever, made by sets. The focus is on individual pieces so compact in design, they fit into almost any interior (or exterior) setting, lending themselves well as modules or components to add or subtract as needed, or to combine with conventional pieces as well. The pieces are so versatile, buyers are encourraged to be as creative as they wish in their use, for they are easily stacked or knocked down or pacified away for storage.

For its Point at the Rockwell Center, Kartell suggested the products that would make a good introductory impact in the local market. With more than 50 years experience in design and entrepreneurship, it has a good idea of what would constitute that "impact."

Some Kartell products

Here are some Kartell lines that Area will carry. Most are mainstays but, from time to time, new designs will be added.

Le Marie is a transparent polycarbonate chair by designer Philippe Starck, which combines lightness and solidity and can accommodate a 300-pound weight.

FPE (for Fantastic Plastic Elastic) chair by Ron Arda has a translucent body put together without screws on the extruded aluminum structure. It is stackable.

Dr. No chairs and Dr. Na tables by Starck, are best paired, ideal for public places (restaurants and cafés) as well as office and home.

Prince Aha stools, also by Starck, are shaped like an hourglass and allow seat and base to be reversed as needed.

Claudia Evangelista (named after two supermodels by Starck) is a magazine-newspaper rack composed of four arms turned upwards on which magazines, books, etc.. can be set and if needed, right at the page where the reader has left off.

There is a Mobil chest of drawers by Antonio Citterio; Tiramisu three-step folding ladder by Andries Van Onck; Componibili sectional cabinets that come square or round by Anne Castelli Ferrieri, to name only a few.

Kartell concept

The Point at Rockwell's Area clearly follows Kartell's retail concepts, the main one being that as a store of fashion and trends, its products are bought to satisfy functional needs, but with a difference—they are bought with a passion and enthusiasm usually reserved for trendy non-durable goods. Another concept pushes the idea that the store itself expresses how and why its products are bought—and this is simply by putting them on display.

A third concept clarifies that Kartell does not propose a lifestyle, by instead "separate" solutions, which is why Kartell products are presented in individual displays wherever they are sold.

Founded in 1949 by Giulio Castelli, a chemical engineer, Kartell occupies a covered area of about 30,000 sq m. Its current manager, Claudio Lutz, has moved the business forward so that today, the head office itself is its best showcase, since it utilizes all its own furniture to create an efficient, functional and pleasant workplace.

Area's directors are happy as well that the Italian furniture they carry is as practical for public places because they also run the Area and O Cafés in most of their stores.

Kartell designers

Kartell has the collaboration of at least 12 Italian designers whose work forms the bulk of the company's input. The Kartell catalog, in itself an artwork, features the contributions of each. There is Starck who counts with the most number of designs and strikes the browser as a man of humorous bent, which is reflected in the way he names his pieces, like Claudia Evangelista for a magazine rack, his Le Marie transparent chair. Ron Arda designed the FPE chair described as "soft, sinuous and seductive." Antonio Citterio is noted for his innovative Bookworm bookcase, said to be a bestseller, Dolly folding chairs and Mobil chest of drawers on wheels. Vico Magistretti designed the Mauna Kea series that includes chairs with iron structures and five-pronged legs with rollers. The others are Van Onck, Alberto Meda and Paolo Rizzatto, Giotto Stoppini, Giolio Polvara, Ferruccio Laviani, Enzo Marl and Michele De Lucchi.

Area Home Store owners and directors, who are keeping Kartell's guidelines in mind, are Kathleen T. Talmadge, president; Giovanna Mabanta, partner/director; and Al Tambunting, partner/architect/designer and Kathleen's brother. Giovanna is based in Europe, while Kathleen resides in California. Both return to the Philippines periodically and as often as required by their business. The first Area Store, they say, opened in 1994 at SM Megamall. There are now others at the Glorietta in Makati City and Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas. The latest addition to their chain is the one that opens soon at Rockwell Center, the only one so far that will carry Kartell.

DOLLY is a folding chair that combines elegance, lightness and sophistication. Suitable for indoors and out. Between is Napoleon from the Gnome series.

MAUNA Ke is a series of seats made with a painted iron tube structure and polypropylene or padded seat and back. This model features slots.

The pieces are so versatile buyers can be as creative as they wish

PORTARIVISTE is a magazine rack whose lively colors (blue, red, yellow, lavender, etc.) lend bright notes to dull corners. With it is a Le Marie chair.

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The Asian home in a contemporary key

(From page D1)

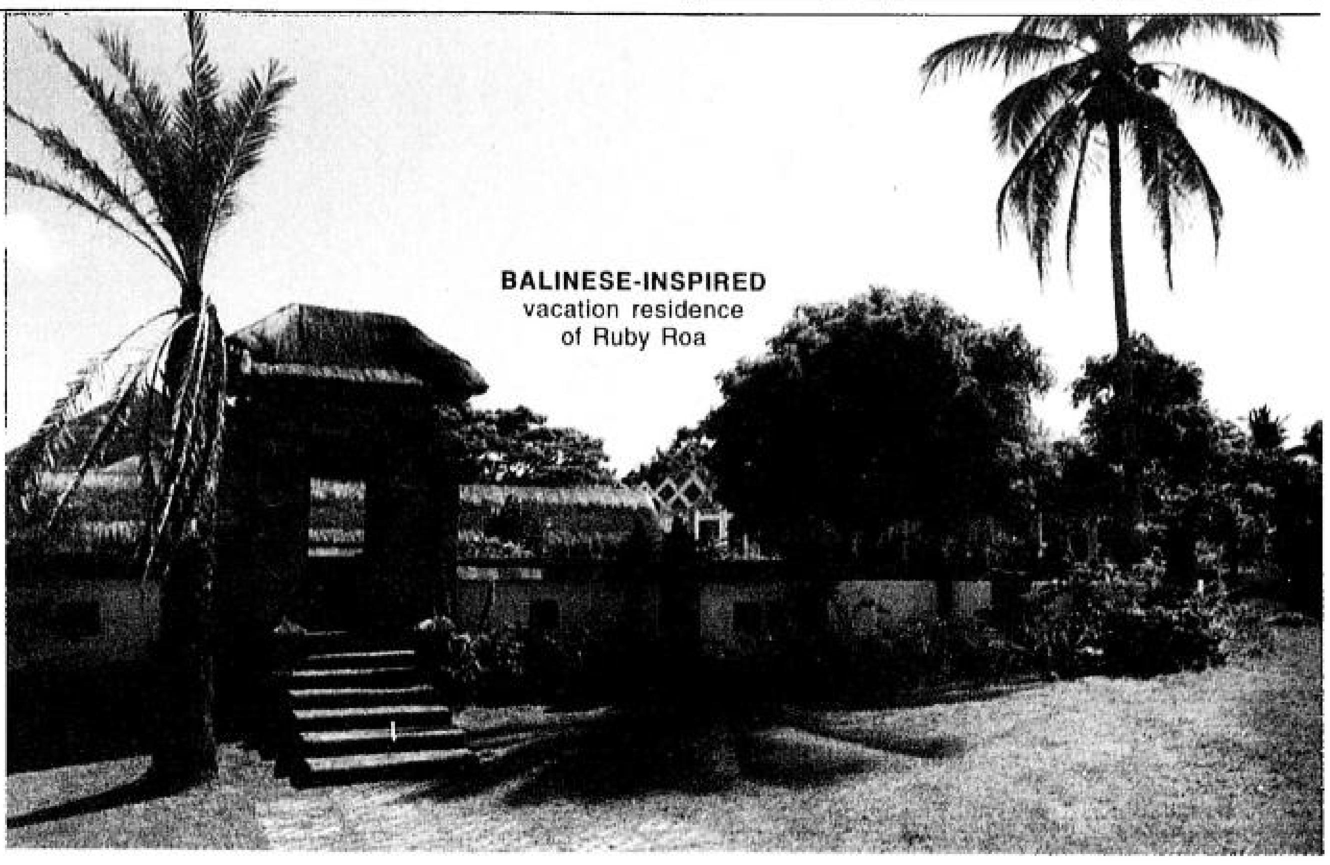
lar protrusions render a characteristic difference, providing a perching point for a dramatic summer sunset or a balmy tropical sky. You must note, however, that the well-insulated roof is still the best investment in this kind of climate. The proliferation of stone surfaces in the local market today gives you a broad range of colors and finishes to select from. These natural materials have the polish and sheen that hold well with the temper of the cyclical monsoons and intense heat. Stones have a cooling effect, visually and technically. Layered on the floor, cut into sculptural elements or tiled onto a wall, they work best with water features and lots of foliage.

Get into the familiar and feel at home. It's a house whose Asian-ness is geography-bound and climate-friendly

Enclosure that breathes

The modern Asian home in the tropics is like an enclosure that breathes, well-ventilated as it is. Yet, its soulful quality rests in the accents and furniture that embrace its corners. Modern is always associated with stark simplicity. Henceforth, in this design language, the space that is left empty is just as important as the space that is filled up.

In the tropical interior setting, there is just so much of style that comes into view. Here, the rich vocabulary of new furniture forms is echoed by a cornucopia of fabrics, window treatments, upholstery, modern and old home collections and the spread of accents never before available to the local design sector. Depending on budget and preferences, you may choose over a selection of bamboo, sea grass, laminated wood, veneer and soft fabrics merged with old family heirlooms as anchor pieces. Your own *narra* table may blend well with an uplifted high-back chair, upholstered in camel, or your stately *molave* dining buffet may stand just a few inches way from your geometric dipping pool by the lanai. A glass wall may showcase an elegant *kamagong aparador*. You shall have pots of indoor plants laid carefully in corners and pocket spaces. The indigenous fabrics that dot the lengths of Northern to Southern Philippines, from Bangkok to Chiangmai, from Bali to Yogyakarta may be draped on your lounging seats, framed on your walls or run across your dining table. You shall have floor mounted lamps that brighten up the entire room, sending forth a cascade of reflections as light bounces from glass walls, to patterned ceilings in flat varnished wood, to gleaming cream walls, to indoor and outdoor water elements. Your home shall be like an illuminated lantern in the evening, a tropical oasis—cool and dramatic at night.


BALINESE-INSPIRED vacation residence of Ruby Roa

Personal accents

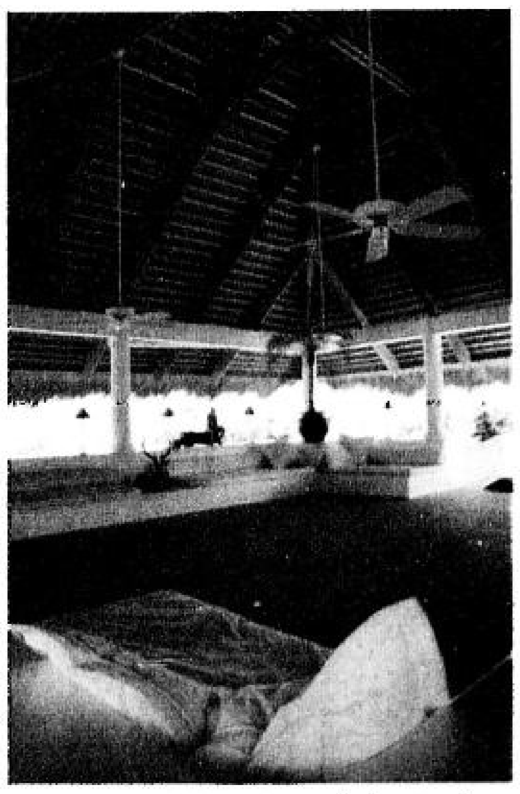
Your accents can be personal. Your colors shall evoke the richness of a festival in Antique, your patterns evoking the dance of young Balinese maidens. There may be flowers floating on glass vases, a homage to your domestic delight. The fragrance of wood and fabric, of scented candles and floral bowls, is carried farther by the wafts of breeze that are normal in your home.

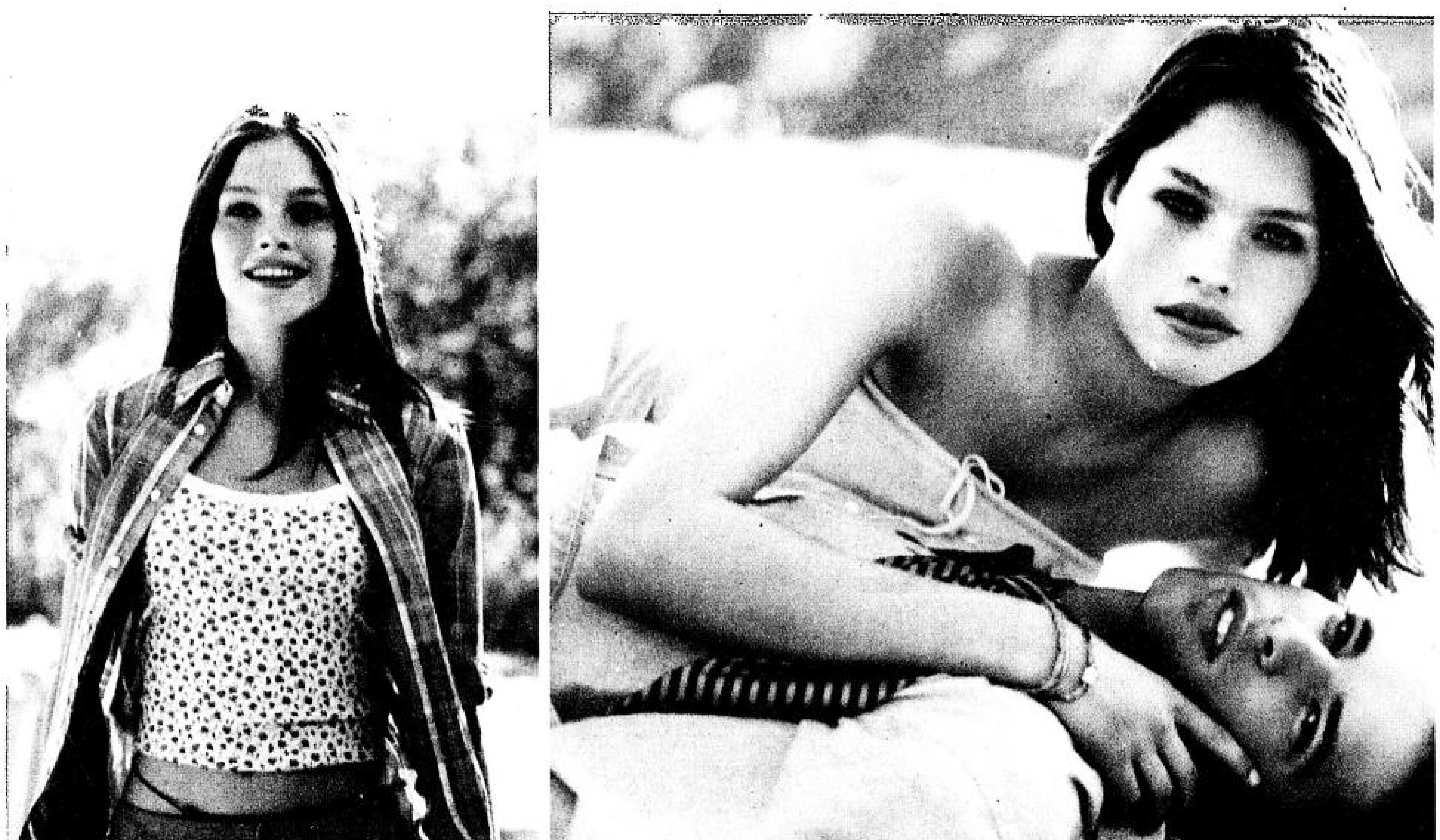
Set against an array of pin lights and simple pendant lamps, the resulting effect is stunning as high-ceilinged walls drop to a warm mix of wood, textured finishes and soft fabrics. Colors and patterns bring your mind where it should be—away from work, far from tension.

The tropical house is a sensuous piece of architecture. The resident can stay home, relax and enjoy. A modernist bent reduces the presence of too many traditionally rich Asian patterns so that the effect is not saturating. Your notion of a home will not be a rigid concrete structure, where predictable windows and usual door openings are cut from a box-like form. You will allow water and landscape to merge as your home gains an irresistible, calming and therapeutic value. Through it all, you will appreciate our own culture even more. Indeed, why should you force yourself to build a home that does not suit your climate?

While a creative professional can put all these elements into order for you, you may form your own essential idea of a tropical house from recollections of provincial homes, summer retreats and the outdoors. Yes, the tropical Asian home is truly that—it is like having your own private resort in this part of the world, with or without a pool, with or without a Jacuzzi or whirlpool bath. There is an instant affinity that makes you familiar with this style. With it, you can find a true sense of place. It may be built along the strip of Calatagan beaches or on a 200-sq-m lot in Novaliches. It can fill a property in Ayala Alabang or within the confines of a Makati or Manila condo unit. With the right specific touches and the tasteful, well-computed nuances of tropical comfort, you can find that this modern style will work just for you.

Then, once you enjoy the refinements of your tropical Asian home, you will see that its timelessness, classic lines and sleek modern amenities blend well with the richness of our culture. Entering the dramatic doorway, you will always be comforted by a house that breathes. Living in your house in the tropics will always be a sensuous experience and falling in love with being home will be easy.


THE MODERN Asian home in the tropics is like an enclosure that breathes, well ventilated as it is. PHOTOS: LYN RILLON



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1255 series of 2000.

His girlfriend couldn't wait for the final decision of his annulment

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I was engaged to this girl for three years, but she suddenly called it off last May, saying she could not wait for my annulment any longer.

Actually, I already have the RTC judge's favorable decision but, of course, it's on appeal. I expect the final decision any time now. I filed for annulment of my marriage for several reasons. I discovered that my wife was committing adultery. She was also a drug addict. Several times I saw shabu in her wallet. She admitted to the addiction, saying she just meant to lose weight. I shall not bother you with the other serious reasons, but they really made it easy to prove her psychological incapacity.

I explored other options for marrying this girl, like going abroad. I was devastated with her decision, especially when I learned she has started dating other guys. It has been over two months now but I'm still hopeful she will come back to me. I have made several attempts to win her back, but to no avail.

It had been very difficult for me to accept the loss. I could not sleep, I have to force myself to eat and cannot concentrate in anything I have to do. I've lost an excitement for life. She is the love of my life. What should I do?

RICHARD

What you should do? *Hijo*, love yourself for a change. You had your marriage annulled and you lost your wife for many reasons. You must have loved her very much, or else you would not have married her. Face it, she was unfaithful to you.

Now this girl in your life is already entertaining other guys. If she really loves you, she would patiently wait for your annulment's final decision.

My advice may seem very curt: Forget her. If you have tried to win her back and she still keeps her distance, it is time now to reflect on your today and tomorrows. Being sleepless will endanger your health and mind. You surely know that the power of the mind should be paid attention to, more than the dictates of your heart.

From the stationery of your letter, I gather you have a very good job. Make sure no one in your office, either lower staff positions or superiors, will have anything to complain about you. Give priority to your daily duties because having a job is the primary requisite to life.

If you have lost your appetite when it is mealtime, my advice is for you to consult a doctor. You should take vitamins for your well-being. But no, just because you find it hard to sleep, don't take sleeping pills. Take a warm shower, drink a glass of warm milk, not coffee. If you have time to go shopping, buy some books to read.

To forget that love of your life, on weekends visit relatives you have not seen for sometime, or take on some hobby, or do some athletic activity, like swimming.

But here is also a final reminder: In our population today, there are more females than males. In other words, there are many young girls today hoping and wishing to meet a nice, single and interesting guy who will be interested in them. There's that song: "The dearest things in life are around you everywhere... right outside your door.... why keep reaching for the moon?"

Stop chasing that lady now. She does not deserve you. Attend social gatherings, you may just meet someone else. Are you a regular churchgoer? During church meetings, look around you.

I hope I have answered your question on what you should do. Good luck. Tomorrow is another day.

* * *

Dear Malou J,

I want to thank you for expressing so eloquently your gratitude. *Hija*, may I know just what advice I gave you? You wrote: "Your kind of loving made my heart remember its song again." May the Heart of all Hearts bless you always, also. May I hear from you again? Mail your letter to PDI.

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Trend Spotting

When will culture's 'musical chairs' end?

> No need to be either for Shahani or Laya, or Endriga or Angara—they're all like pawns in politics

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IT'S utterly disappointing that in culture, the GMA government is going the way of its predecessors—it's naming appointees to culture bodies.

You'd think that with a trillion-and-one deliverables in GMA's Sona, the government would hardly have time for culture appointments, but it did. Having culture appointments is different from having a culture agenda.

What we would have wanted to see, if GMA was to direct her sights at the culture sector at all, was for the government to give teeth to the heritage conservation laws so that the likes of **Lito Atienza** wouldn't be free to obliterate architectural gems and parks from the face of their cities as they please; to give incentives to the corporate sector to give more support to culture—and other such proactive stuff.

We're not out to pass judgment on the qualifications of the appointees; we have neither the space nor the attitude for that now. What we bemoan is the govern-

WHEN/ p. E2

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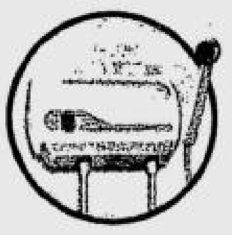

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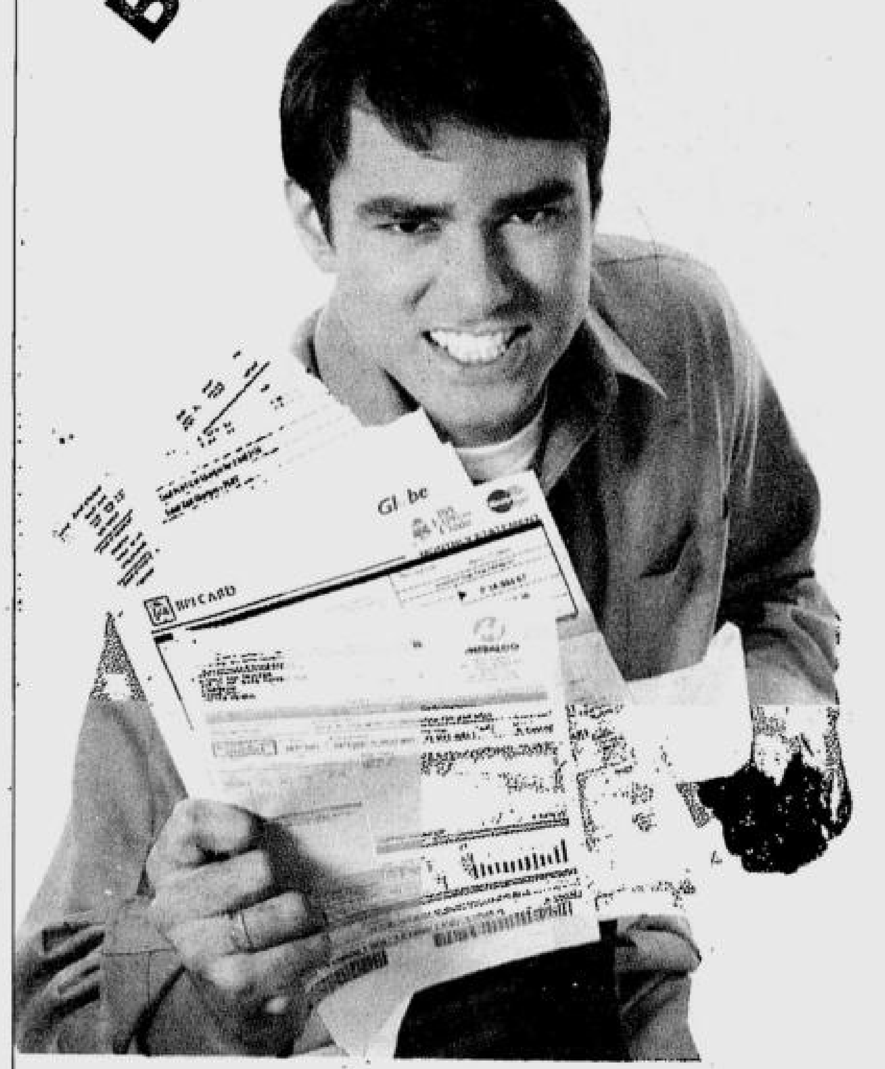

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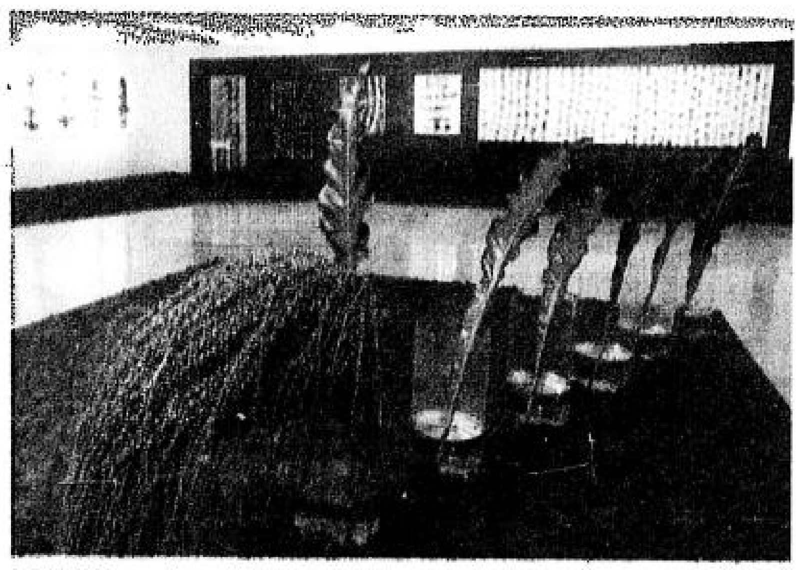
RACHY Cuna does a Christo by covering the entire staircase with sheer fabric. He lays down carpets of soft moss. Metal bamboos enclose a 20-ft pond. Fifteen-foot bamboos spring from plates of pebbles.

Oasis of peace

THERE'S a good reason we spend most of the day diverting ourselves with noise. In the heart of silence, the most truthful inner voice can be heard, and we may be fearful of what we hear. Yet silence is the natural state of our spirit. In silence, the mind is divested of disturbances, and hence we learn to be in touch with ourselves. If we can come across a silent place, we must be grateful for finding what has become a rare product in this hectic world.

In Rachy Cuna's exhibit "Journeast" at the Metropolitan Museum, the main attraction is the atmosphere of calm. Rachy's paintings are the result of time spent in solitude and self-discovery. To enhance the display, he recreated a meditative garden in the main gallery. The pool is meant for introspection. The energy of the water is pure. Its silent power touches the heart of your being. Refreshed, you can reenter life.



LEAVES are slanted in one direction in oversized glass jars. A bouquet of palm flowers punctuates the arrangement. PHOTOS: BOBOT MERU

When will culture's . . .

(From page E1)

ment's—this and previous administrations', including the **Marcos'**—habit of treating culture as a political football; you could kick it around whichever way serves your goal.

For decades now, culture agencies have been treated like war booty—they're awarded to the victors. Culture executives are like a buffet being served up to the political administration; if they don't butter up or don't have the right political connections, off with their heads.

Culture is a matter of political patronage, like everything else. While we have learned to live with that in every facet of our national life, we (naïve us) still wish culture would be made an exception for the simple reason that while we've long wallowed in economic poverty, we'd like to think that the guardianship of our cultural heritage would be made inviolate, that even if we had poverty of everything else, our talented race wouldn't suffer at least from poverty of the soul.

But that's going abstract far ahead of the point of this column.

And the point is, culture bodies such as the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, while created by the government, have independent charters meant to make them just that—independent.

Of course, while appointing the heads of these bodies is the prerogative of the Office of the President, still these agencies have rules and ruling bodies meant to develop and protect a leadership infrastructure from political machinations. It's a rare leader who will have the statesmanship (or stateswomanship) enough to respect the independence of these culture bodies—and let them nurture their own leadership. We haven't come across one yet, in all these decades.

In fact what we have seen from all the administrations—past and present—is that it's so tempting to appoint kin and political allies to these bodies—which carry financial endowments, by the way.

Still, we hoped that the GMA government, born of People Power, would show us a reborn sense of values. And we expected a lot more from the likes of **Vicky Garchitorena** who's respected, if not revered, as a leader of civil society that stood for renewed values.

GOING ASYMMETRIC. Silk georgette blouse and fully beaded skirt by Luna

In fact, what we're seeing is the maneuvering, for instance, to install former senator **Leticia Shahani** as NCCA chair—through the back door, or whatever door is available.

If Shahani gets in, and she will, she'll be co-terminus with GMA, the same way **Baltazar Endriga, Nes Jardin** and others became coterminus with **Fidel Ramos**, and after them, **Jaime Laya, Gloria Angara, Mita Rufino** with **Erap**. And the cycle goes on and on.

Culture administration in this country is nothing more than a game of musical chairs—except that unlike in the kids' game, this one is not entertaining; it's pathetic. No wonder the culture sector is most fractious; the national system makes it such.

Unless our artists are allowed freedom from party politics—while still being given the support due the arts and culture—they will remain a bickering lot not much better than and no different from show biz people, except that the latter makes so much more money.

The last thing we need now is to take sides in these culture appointments, and it's a credit to the Gloria Angara-Mita Rufino tandem that they didn't provoke partisanship upon their exit, but rather left without making a scene. There's no need to be partisan for either Angara or Endriga at CCP, or for either Laya or Shahani in NCCA, for they're all in the same boat anyway—they're culture pawns in politics.

But what should be done is that culture agenda and administration must be given independence to ensure continuity, professionalism. Without a safe distance from politics, no culture development can be sustained. Artists will go each their own way. There'll be no continuity of programs. There'll be no professionalism in the giving of grants.

And no culture body can ever attain democratic reach—enough to make a difference in the lives of people across classes.

Everything will be short-term.

In the US, the culture and the arts have endowment infrastructures that politicians can't toy with. The high strata of politics and business, of course, support these endowments, even for prestige purposes, but they can't ram through their agenda. These endowment bodies are not beholden to just a single entity; their sustenance is guaranteed by the backing of many, not one. Culture crosses political lines.

Unless we put our culture bodies above politics, culture and arts programs will be at the mercy of *trapos*. Then we'll remain not only economically poor, but we'll be truly an impoverished people not only for now, but for the future generations as well.

We thought the GMA government would be an exception.

Pia's maturity

NOW on to more manageable stuff. We got to see the first show of Rustan's **Pia Regala-Hebron** last week at the Makati Shangri-La, and young as she is (in age and in the fashion industry), she showed a rather mature hand in both design and construction.

The show didn't dazzle; on the contrary, it was a no-nonsense parade of dressy, elegant lines—not casual, but dramatic after-6 wear. The lines were clean and classic, made even cleaner and uncluttered by the use of soft diaphanous fabrics.

There were no show-stoppers, but they were the stuff real women would wear in real-life day. Very feminine and flattering. Drama was not jaw-dropping; rather, it was insinuated—in the choice of color (monochromatic green, shades of white, black-and-whites) and in the strategic placement of glitter (e.g. in the bias, in the waist). I loved her black-and-white numbers at the finale, the taffeta gowns.

Her feminine subtlety and touch for understatement reminded us of the collections of **Gang Gomez** and **Mike de la Rosa**. (Gods, have I really gone full circle?) That refined. That seasoned. That sure.

Looks like there are young designers out there like Pia with still uncluttered minds and lines. (Truth is, the works of some young "designers" remind me of C-5—on days they don't collect the trash.)

Now we await the shows of **Rhett Eala, Inno Sotto** and **Rajo Laurel**.

Gap at Rustan's

GAP will be at Rustan's at the end of the year, along with Banana Republic. Gap will also have a freestanding store at Glorietta, Ayala Center. That's good news for us Gap-aholics. For the longest time, this phenomenal brand has skipped Asia, deadset on freestanding stores only in key cities abroad.

* * *

Swelling up with new haunts is Eastwood City in Libis. The latest come-on is **Glenda Barretto**'s Via Mare, which opened over the weekend. It's nice to know that Glenda is bringing her Via Mare to strong neighborhoods. Better still is that this culinary icon has a new book, "Via Mare A Seafood Cookbook," which has all the luscious innovative recipes only a Glenda can experiment with—such as Crab with Garlic and Anchovy Sauce, Pompano with Egg Noodles and Vegetables, Tuna Kebabs, Eel Stewed in Garlic Soy and Vinegar. On top of this trove are how-to sections which are heaven-sent for cooking-impaired people like me (e.g. how to flake a steamed crab).

* * *

On the theater front, **Monique Wilson** is at the prestigious Edinburgh Festival, mounting six shows of "Classical Monique."

After her Aug. 6-11 stint there, she comes home in time for the premiere of her New Voice's "Vagina Monologues," her production that won critical acclaim months ago and is now successfully touring the provinces. The premiere will have the Tagalog version of this **Eve Ensler** work translated by leading playwrights **Glecy Atienza, Joi Barrios** and **Luna Sicat**. The Tagalog version debuts on Aug. 31 at Music Museum, to run until Sept. 15. I enjoyed the "Vagina" and wouldn't miss its Tagalog version for the world.

* * *

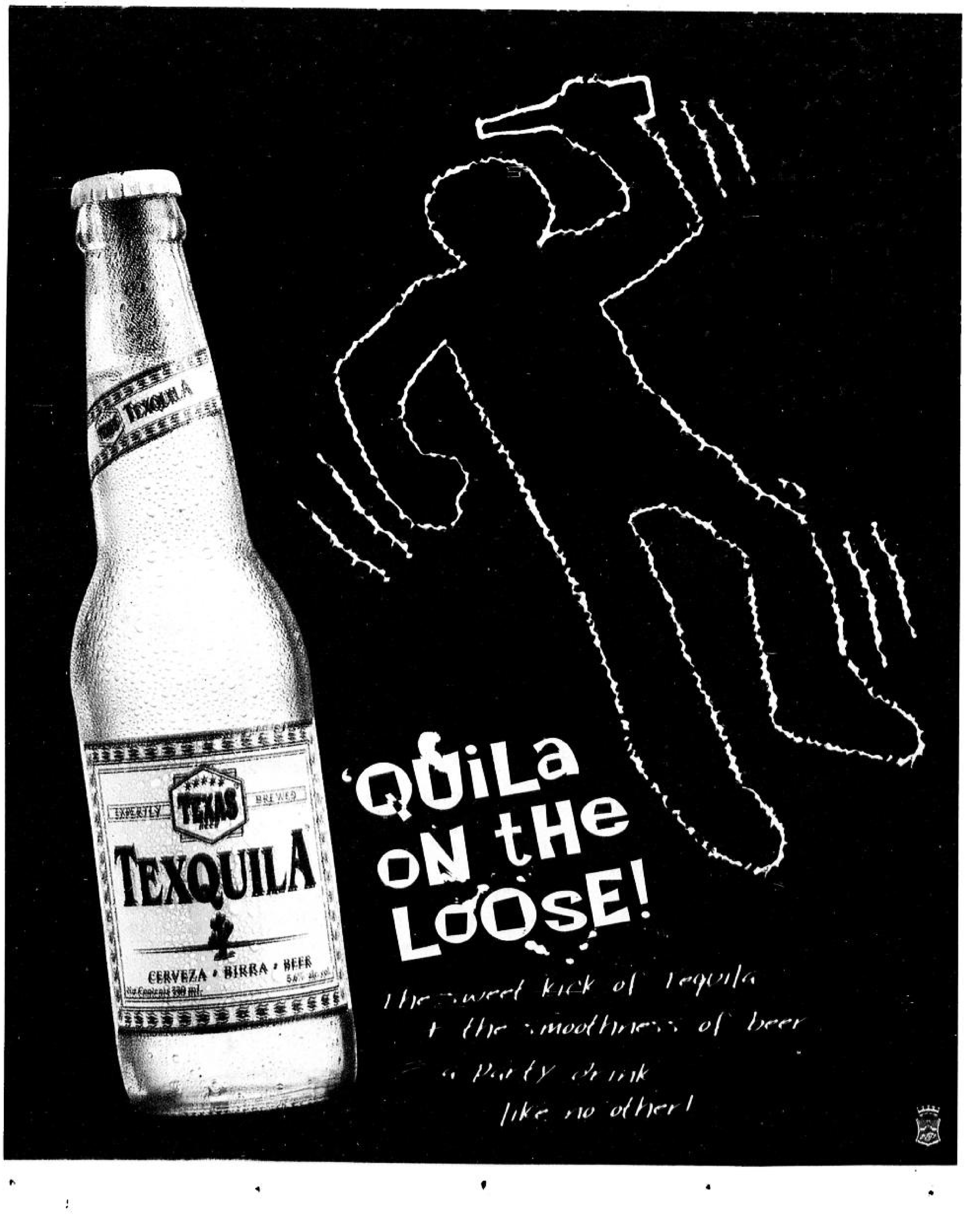
Leading art director **Noll Galang** lost his brother, **Mars Galang**, and the country lost a well-known artist in Mars. Our condolence to his family.

* * *

Foremost photographer **Jun de Leon** is busy wrapping up **Patrick Rosas'** book "Patrick Rosas' Images," a beauty book that should be a benchmark in the local scene. The pair has been to Dubai, Paris photographing Filipino personalities and will be off soon to New York to do **Josie Natori** and other famous Filipinos there.

Jun is a new dad. Our favorite model, **Abbygale Arenas**, just gave birth to their firstborn, **Irijah** (meaning "God sees"). No wonder Jun is forever young.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net



Update on the Mehan Gardens' war

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

LAST June, when the Mehan Garden controversy was stirring up, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez convened a task force of conservationists and environmentalists who will identify alternative sites to replace the Mehan Gardens where Manila Mayor Lito Atienza plans to construct his City Colleges.

Earlier, conservationists had made known their objection to turn the historic garden into a college campus. They said it meant obliterating an important city landmark and utilizing the area for purposes other than its original mandate, which was, among other things, to provide much-needed fresh air and open space to smog-ridden Manileños. By getting the conservationists together, the DENR hoped to pool their individual resources and clout to persuade City Hall from going ahead with its project.

Members of the task force, the Heritage Conservation Society, National Historical Institute, the DENR and the National Commission for Culture and Arts, are Mayor Atienza's severest critics on his Mehan Gardens project. And they have shown their reasons for objecting to it.

First, they said, utilizing property already well established as an historic landmark was in violation of existing legislation on heritage conservation. And, providentially, a book on the subject has recently been released, giving teeth to the critics' contentions. "Laws and Jurisprudence on Built Heritage," compiled by conservationists and Supreme Court researchers, lists down all the legal safeguards available for the conservation and protection of national treasures. It stresses that the act of exploring, excavating and digging in archeological or historical sites is unlawful, especially without written permission from the National Museum. The museum had already reminded city officials of this fact.

In the process of objecting to the controversial project, the conservationists were uncovering City Hall's other plans for the site. These were the construction of a Park and Ride building and a dormitory for teachers in other parts of Mehan Garden.

Alternative sites

The task force has identified two alternative sites on which the City College could be built, reports Toti Villalon, president and chair of the Heritage Conservation Society. These are the old Ateneo in Intramuros and the former Avanceña High School in Tanduay, Quiapo. It seems City Hall's preference is for the Ateneo property, but there is a hitch: That Intramuros site is under the jurisdiction of the Intramuros Administration, chaired by Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon. At the time of this discussion, Secretary Gordon was out of the country, and there could be no immediate resolution. But just the same, City Hall gave the task force a two-week deadline to iron out the hitches and hand over the Ateneo property. The group rejected the deadline, declaring that obtaining the go-signal to obtain the Intramuros property from Gordon was now up to City Hall. The task force's job was simply to find alternative sites.

In the meantime, Villalon adds, construction of the Park and Ride building goes on. According to plans it will be a three-story edifice, one to be occupied by concessionaires (à la mini mall) and the other two for parking. City Hall says it will benefit many students from the vicinity, it appears only 120 slots will be available for car parking, which to project oppositors belies the claim that it will benefit "many."

Mehan diggings

To underscore the fact that the Mehan Garden is also an archeological site, museum officials have reportedly ordered excavations in certain portions of it. Initial findings have been quite significant, according to Villalon. They have uncovered the foundation of the old Parian, the old Chinese quarter in Intramuros, and some pottery from the Ming dynasty. And these, he says, come from a dig only 8 ft deep! So the possibilities of unearthing more interesting finds are great.

In the meantime, the next episode of this Landmark Conservation versus Landmark Destruction "war" is expected to take place this week. *Abangan*!

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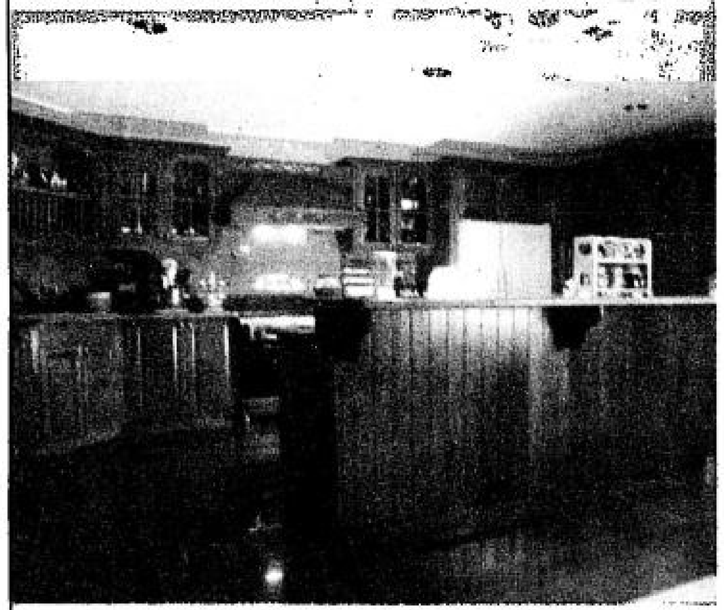

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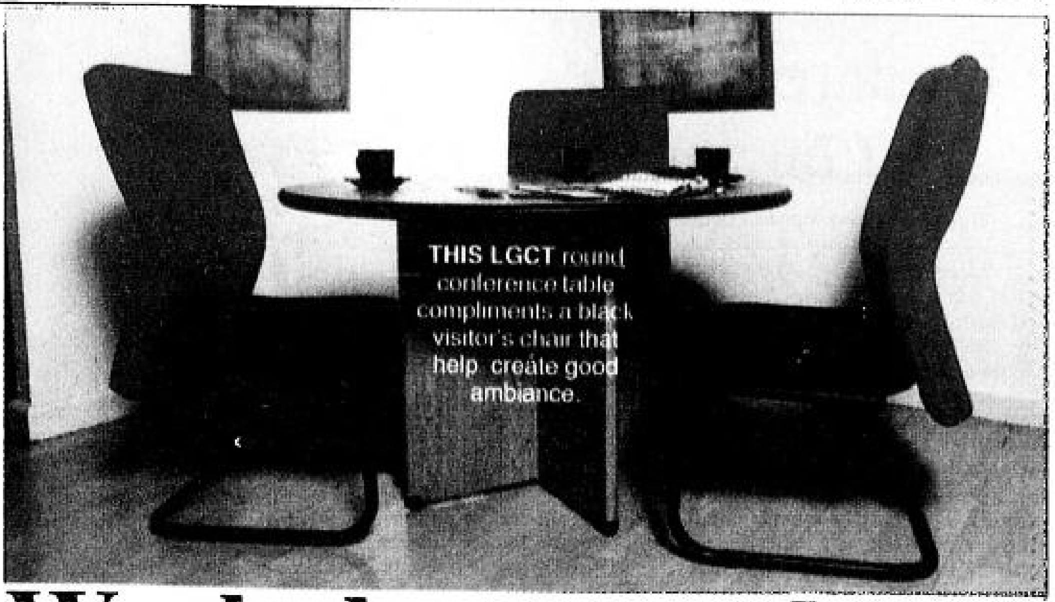

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